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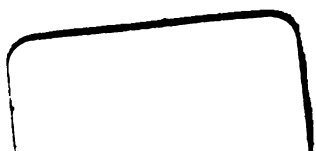
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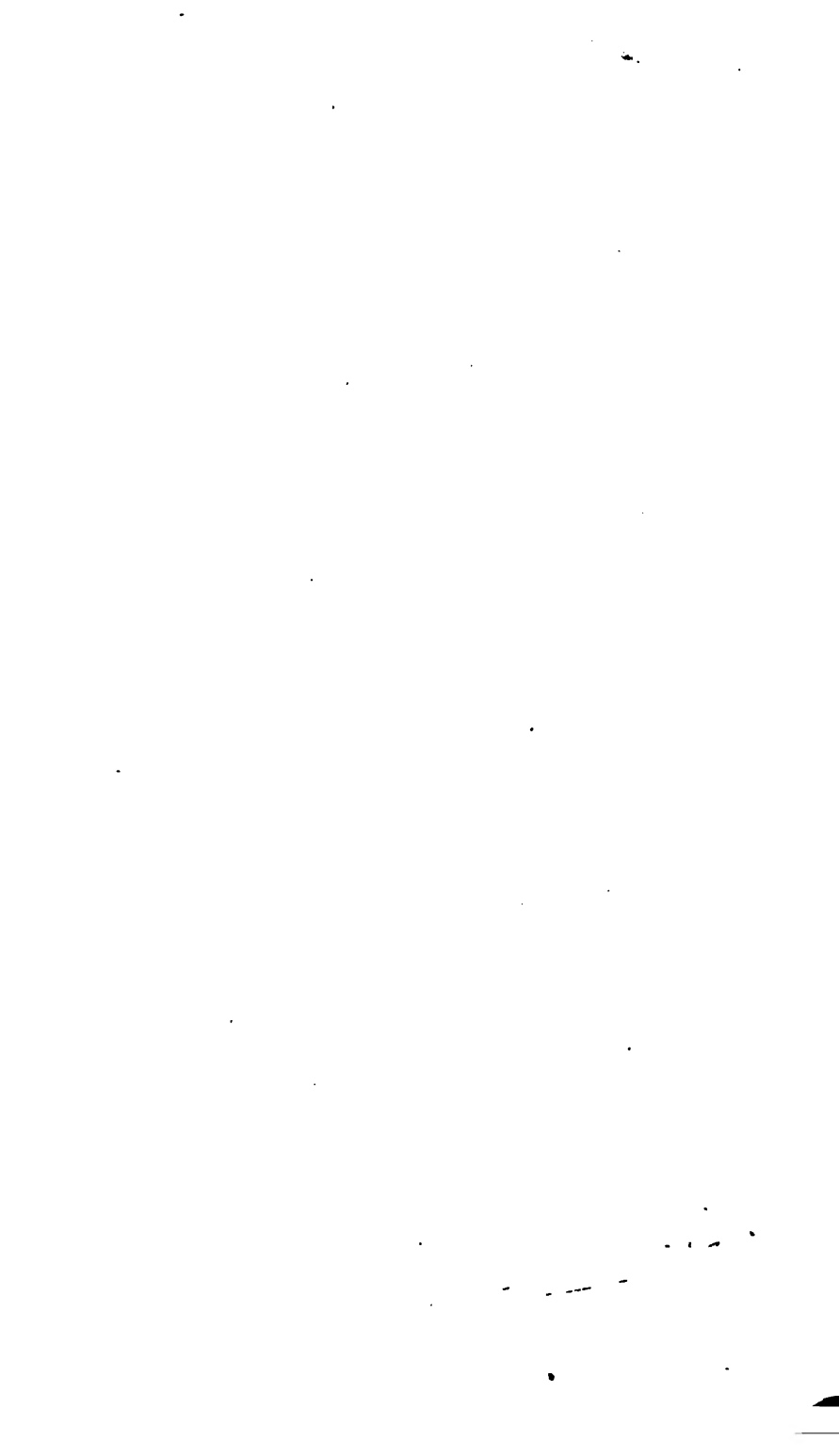
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THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.



THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE
MINISTERS
OF THE
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

By SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

VOLUME FOURTEENTH.

Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.
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M,DCC,XCV.



C O N T E N T S.

No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	1791-3.	Increase.	Decrease.	Page
1.	Chirnside, - - -	383	961	578	—	1
2.	Fenwick, - - -	1113	1281	168	—	51
3.	Daviot and Dunlichty, - - -	2106	1697	—	409	67
4.	Slamannan, - - -	1209	1010	—	199	78
5.	Kirkmichael and Cullicudden, - - -	1371	1234	—	137	88
6.	Dalton, - - -	451	615	164	—	101
7.	Dolphington, - - -	302	200	—	102	107
8.	Abdie, - - -	812	† 494	—	328	115
9.	Firth and Stenness, - - -	1108	1086	78	—	125
10.	Kilninian, - - -	2570	3281	691	—	139
11.	Killbrandon and Killchattan, - - -	1492	2060	568	—	157
12.	Kilfinichen and Kulviccuen, - - -	1685	3002	1317	—	170
13.	Kinfauns, - - -	639	628	—	11	212
14.	Kilfinan, - - -	1793	1417	—	376	229
15.	Bellie, - - -	1710	1719	189	—	263
16.	Tynron, - - -	464	500	36	—	273
17.	Govan, - - -	4387	8318	† 3929	—	281
18.	Kernback, - - -	420	588	168	—	297
19.	Birsay and Harray, - - -	2200	2013	—	187	311
20.	Crachy and Braemar, - - -	2671	2251	—	420	334
21.	Mid-Calder, - - -	760	1251	491	—	353
22.	Speymouth, - - -	994	1347	353	—	374
23.	Canoby, - - -	1733	2725	992	—	407
24.	Crichton, - - -	611	900	289	—	433
25.	Primrose, - - -	555	329	—	226	439
26.	Corforphine, - - -	995	1037	42	—	447
27.	Ewes, - - -	392	320	—	72	465
28.	Wigton, - - -	1032	1350	318	—	470
29.	Old Luce, - - -	1509	1200	—	309	490
30.	Greenlaw, - - -	895	§ 1210	315	—	501
31.	Auchterhouse, - - -	600	600	—	—	516
32.	Forglan, - - -	607	600	—	7	530
33.	Linlithgow, - - -	3296	3221	—	75	547
34.	Langton, - - -	190	435	145	—	577
35.	Mertoun, - - -	502	557	55	—	586
36.	Rescobie, - - -	798	934	136	—	594
37.	Clackmannan, - - -	1913	2528	615	—	605
Totals, —		46,490	55,199	11,637	2,928	
			46,470	2,728		
Increase in 1791—3. —			8,709	8,709		

* This is, on the supposition, that there are $5\frac{1}{2}$ in each family. Mr. Boyd says, there are about 244 families, and that the average, in each, will be 5, or rather more

† This was the number in 1789

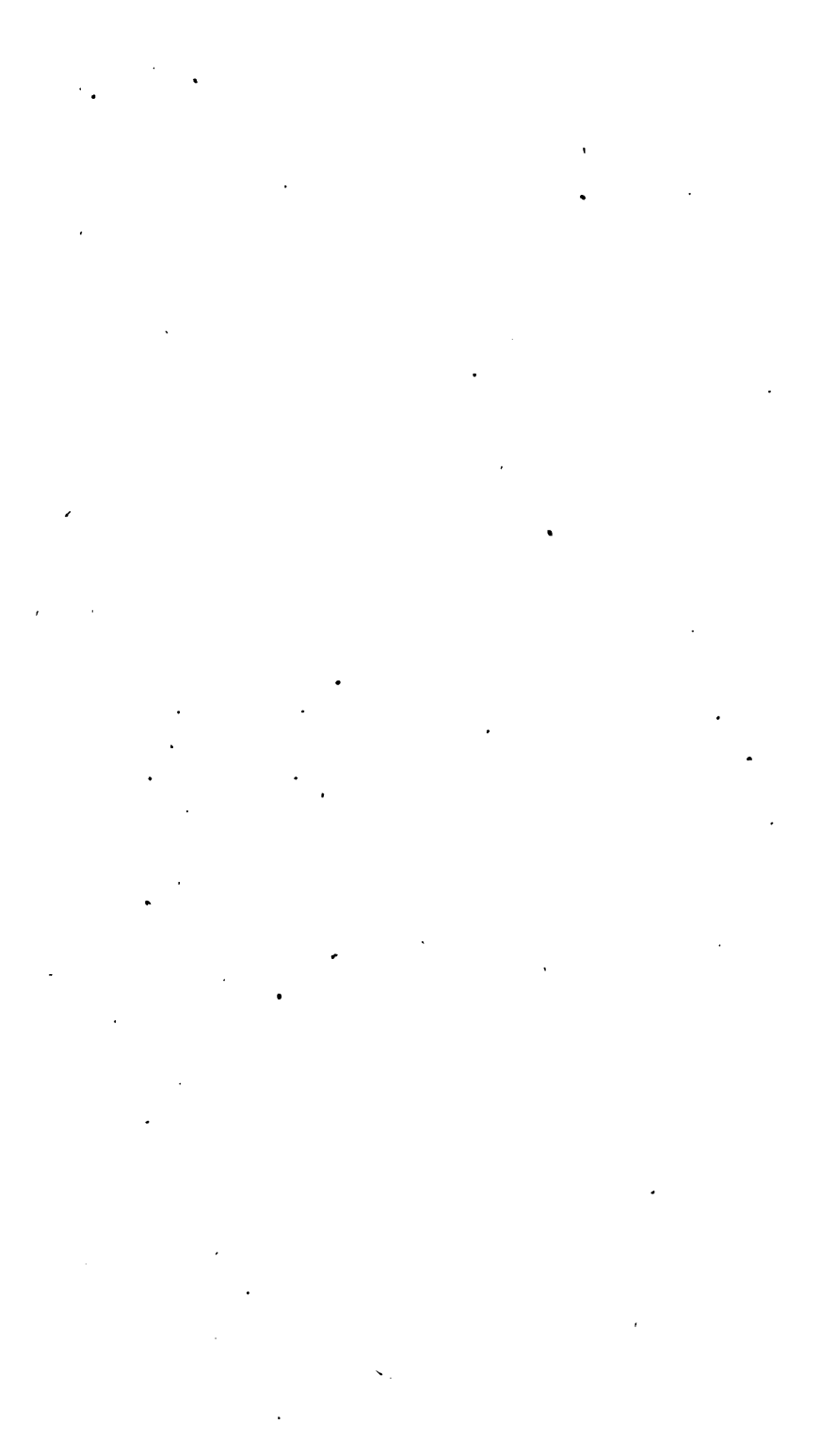
‡ This is the increase, of both Govan and Gorbals, since 1755. The increase of 5000, stated to Gorbals in Vol. V., must be a mistake.

§ This was the number in 1785.



ERRATA.

Page	l,	line	11,	for	ituation,	read	Situation.
— 55,	—	7,	—	leafe,	—	leafes.	
— 60,	—	9,	—	Thowallan,	—	Rowallan,	
— 105,	—	25,	—	or,	—	nor.	
— 357,	—	3,	—	to,	—	till.	
— 364,	—	7,	—	clothes,	—	cloaks.	
— 369,	—	16,	—	it,	—	them.	
— 371,	—	2,	—	Emperour,	—	Ufurper,	
— 372,	—	6,	—	refcue,	—	roufe.	
— —	—	1,	—	inferiour,	—	superiour.	
— 373,	—	2,	—	distant,	—	—	



THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

PART XIV.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF CHIRNSIDE.

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE,
PRESBYTERY OF CHIRNSIDE.)

By the Rev. WALTER ANDERSON, D. D.

Situation, Extent, Estates, &c.

CHIRNSIDE is the name of a considerable village and parish, in the shire of *Berwick*, vulgarly called the *Merse*, but, more properly, the *March*, upon the E. border of Scotland. It is also the seat of a presbytery; and, as such, it is stated in the list of the presbyteries*, instituted in the reign of James VI. 1581; when the Diocesan Court, or Synod of Jedburgh, now called that of

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A

Merse

* Vide Calderwood's Church History, fol. edit. p. 100.

Merse and Tiviotdale, consisted of only four presbyteries; viz. that of Kello, Dunse, Chirnside and Jedburgh.

It has no natural and well marked boundaries. The large stream of Whittadder, or Whitewater, terminates it upon the S., and a deep morass, called Bellymire, is its confine, in the opposite quarter. The elevated and expanded hill of Chirnside, and the contiguous one of Idington, when taken together with their wide skirts, may be reckoned as comprehensive of the whole parish. The figure is oval, and its longest line, extending eastward from Whittadder bridge to the extremities of Foulden and Aytton parishes, is computed to measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ English miles, or under 4. Its greatest breadth will hardly reach to 3. Upon a calculation, the number of acres in the parish will amount to about 6523. The whole land, if we except 5 or 6 small portions, consists now of 5 estates; two of which, Chirnside and Idington, are separate baronies, and both of considerable antiquity*.

The lands of Ninewells are next in valuation after Idington. The 4th estate, called East Mains, and holding of the barony, is the property of John Mollie, Esq., a lineal descendant of an old family of that name in Tiviotdale, and parish of Morbattle. The 5th is that of Blackburn in the Mire, the property of Mrs. Bruce, the
relict

* The former, to which the largest territory belongs, had, probably, become an appendage of the lordship of Home, when the chief of that family, Lord Warden of the East March, after being engaged in the revolt of Francis, Earl of Bothwell, had returned to his duty, and obtained, as his share in that forfeited chieftain's spoils, a grant of the Abbey of Coldingham, anno 1596. The donation would involve claims to, or at least facilitate the acquisition of lands in the neighbourhood of that well-endowed priory. Hence, the lands of Ninewells appear, from the charters, not to hold of the barony of Chirnside, but of the lordship of Home.

relict of David Bruce Esq., who resided in Fife. Of these heritors, 3 have present residence; William Hall, Esq. of Whitehall, the principal proprietor, and patron of the parish, Joseph Home, Esq. of Ninewells, and the above named heritor of East Mains. The barony of Idington, in the beginning of this century, possessed by a Sir Andrew Lauder, of the Valleyfield family, has been, for above 50 years back, the property of the Hays of Drummelzier, whose present representative is Robert Hay, Esq., resident at Dunse Castle, the usual seat of his family.

Name, &c.—The etymology of the name *Chirnside*, is of somewhat difficult explication; yet if we take its first syllable to be Gaelic, as the other is Saxon, or English, its impost and propriety may be understood. The word *cairn*, well known to denote in Erse, the rude sepulchral monument of stones, raised by the Saxons and Danes, in honour of their warriors who fell in battle, is written, in some specimens we have of that language, with a *ch*, and, at large, *charne* or *chern* *.

A 2

The

* In this orthography, if the proper one, in Erse, the change of the open vowel *e* or *i*, into an *i*, which is more mute, may be easily accounted for, from the abbreviated sound being most affected in common discourse. Chirnside would be readily pronounced Chirnside. But there is a difficulty in understanding how the harsh and uncouth pronunciation of the *ch* could be admitted in that word, when it is generally avoided in the dialect of the country. The fact is, that, although the book-learned, and better sort, do adopt it, the common people almost universally agree in its rejection. They pronounce *Shirnside*, as (turning the *ch* into an *sh*) they do in shance, shoice, shair, shopin, sheese, &c. &c. And even although they often hear the English pronunciation of church, they can make no more of it than *fursh*. The name of *Shirnside*, or *Chirnside*, therefore applied to the village, may be presumed to signify a town, or place hard by the *chern*, or kern; the *ch* in the Saxon alphabet being sounded often like a *sh*.

The vestige of a cairn, although not now in accumulation; but the raised ground, rather hollowed out in the middle; is observable on the eastern, and highest summit of the hill; near to which the row of the village, on that side, begins. Idington Hill, which, with a small interval, is a continuation of the same ridge, shows yet more apparently the place and remains of two cairns. The heaped stones of one of them were but lately carried off; and it is known, that, in their first demolition, about 40 years ago, a stone coffin, its figure said to be an oblong square, was taken up entire, and conveyed to a gentleman's place in the neighbourhood. In the track of Lammermuir, between Chirnside and Dunglass, several of these cairns were, of late years, very conspicuous, as they are found most numerous upon the E. coast of Scotland, adjacent to that of Northumberland, and of Yorkshire, often invaded and occupied by the Danes and Saxons.

Chirnside Hill, and Prospects from it, &c.—Among the several eminences which disjoin from the edge of Lammermuir, on the N., project into the Low Country of Berwickshire, Chirnside Hill is a most remarkable one. It is distinguished from others of them, by its elevation and semicircular aspect to the S., joined with the great expansion of its summit, and its gradual declination to Whittadder water. It commands, as most of them do, the view of a country, the richest in soil (with the exception of the Carries), of any in Scotland; and, we may add, in its present state of culture and fertility, not inferior to the best improved lands of England; unless we take into the account the forced gardens and nurseries around the metropolis, and some meadows, glutted with manure, or formed out of swamps in the fenny countries.

ties. The landscape beheld, is that of a plain, wayed with long ridges, running chiefly in one direction, and of more than 25 miles extent from the Bay of Berwick to the Tiviotdale Hills, on the W.; while directly S., and at almost the same distance, the famed hills and chaces of Cheviot form a boundary truly grand. About 60 or 70 years ago, this prospect, although striking and noble over the country, was a naked one, and had little or nothing of the beauty arising from extensive agriculture, enclosed fields or plantations. If some groves or strips of trees marked, here and there, the seats of the gentry or nobles, besides these, and a few enclosures, joined with them, hardly any thing but waste land, or the poorest culture, was discoverable. Nature, indeed, wore a robe that indicated a deep soil. The uncultivated grounds produced immense tracks of heath, overspread with thick furze, or tall whins, and, in some drier places, with broom; which, in the spring and through the summer, shed the golden gleam of their flowers, and their fragrance, all around.

The eye of a spectator, on Chirnside Hill, now has in prospect a country, of the extent described, all of it in remarkable cultivation; the corn fields and pasture lands, almost every where, enclosed and divided by hedges and ditches. Large plantations not only appear around the gentlemen's seats, but reach, in several places, to the extremities of their lands; so that they seem to be conjoined to each other. Of such a pleasant scene, we have here an immediate exhibition. The plantations of Whitehall, forming a quadrangle, with some contraction on its E. and W. sides, and running on in lines of half a mile, advance up the hill, from near the banks of Whittadder to the croft lands of the village, now turned, in part,

part, to a rich and beautiful sheep-park. Between the W. side of that plantation, and where the hedge-row of Ninewells approaches to it, there is seen, in the opening, a section of Whittadder, to which Blackadder-water, there near its confluence, comes forward as a tangent. A little above both these plantations, and where a grove of trees intercepts to a spectator, at the manse and other houses in the same declivity of the hill, the distinct view of Whittadder, that clear stream is cast into curious and picturesque appearances. In one station, it glitters between the stems of the trees, reflecting intermissive and tremulous beams of light. In another, it shows, like a bright edging or half coronet, to their green tops. In a third, where the trees do not interpose, it is thrown into a shining curve. The high banks are seen, in contiguity to those of Blackadder-water. The plantation and enclosures around Allanbank-house conspire with those of Blackadder to complete the vista, and shut the scene *.

Village,

* The Mill of Chirnside, besides the views and plantations, possesses, in almost the whole of the extent, a natural fertility of soil, although with very considerable difference and variation; and it contains also great and valuable stores of free-stone and marl. The former lies, in many places, not more than 2 or 3 feet under the surface. Its colour is between red and white, and the grain such as renders it not too hard to be wrought by the chisel, yet very durable. Its chief bed appears in the middle of the south side of the hill, where the old path-way ascending it, is, in a manner, turned, the most part of its length, into a rugged pavement. As quarries of stone rise towards the hill, the marl banks are formed, mostly, in the declivities and dips it takes towards Whittadder; the sloping grounds on the sides of which are entire accumulations of its strata; being all either of the clayey kind, or the more lumpy and stoney. Of shell marl, no traces appear; nor is it found in the neighbourhood, nor any where in the shire, but in very small quantities. The former

Village, Agriculture, &c.—The line of the village runs, as it has done for various generations, in two rows of houses, E. and W., over the broad summit of the hill, to the length of more than half a mile. Another row of them, not so compact, descends the hill in a S. direction. Departing from the former, at an opening near the middle, called the *cross*, and properly the cross, it has the church for its termination. A little aside from the other houses in this line, called the Kirkgate, stands the manse, with the glebe-ground on three sides of it, at the distance of about 100 yards, or more, from the church, in a lower situation. Before the division of the lands of the barony, into the separate shares of its proprietors in the 1740, and for many years after that period, the village houses made that mean appearance common to all others in the country. Reared at the expense of the landholders, and furnished *gratis* to the farmers, or, at a very small rent, to other tenants, they were of such construction, in their materials and dimensions, as, in comparison with those now built, we would call the best of them hovels, or huddles of stone, clay and wood. Until the late Mr. Hall, clerk of Session, erected his two pavilions as office-houses to a future mansion, and the deceased Mr. Home of Ninewells, in the year 1745, built the present dwelling-house of his family, and some repairs were made

on

former is of several colours; light, grey, pale, blue, and dark; and some whitish and red. It proved equally good in each of these colours, when set; at least, with the exception of the last one, which rather participates of sand. As the stoney sort is often found very hard, it has been taken, even by gentlemen acquainted with its ordinary appearance, for common stone, and built into fences. The total ruin of them, in 2 or 3 years, discovered, to their surprise, the mistake they had made. Its application as a manure, will be afterward considered.

on that of East Mains, no edifice of a modern structure was to be seen in the whole parish *.

We

* The church, indeed, had its low walls and its steeple of a tower-like form, built with free-stone, bedded with lime; and its two aisles composed of rough ashlar. The castle, or strong house of Idington, now quite demolished, was of the complement of all the old towers, partly of free and whin-stones, and some lime joined with clay mortar. The houses of the inferior heritors and portioners of land differed little from those of the farmers, into the composition of which free-stone or lime hardly entered. The manse, as it stood at the decease of the late minister in the 1755, humbly resembled them in its form, covered with thatch, and with a deep *cumec-eil*; in the second floor, it had no more than 36 feet of wall for all its length, unless what was called an outer-house, or kitchen, made up of *cat and clay*, was reckoned a good part of it. Before the barony of Chirnside was divided among the heritors, in consequence of a decree pronounced by the Court of Session in the 1740, it is to be observed, that there were no outfield farms, excepting those belonging to the three mills in the parish. The village, like others in the country, comprehended all the houses and cottagers appertaining to the several proprietors, great and small. Adjacent to the mansion-house of some of the former, there was what was called the mains farm, or that of his domain or household. Hence, as the land was in time parcelled out into several farms, so many of them distinguished only by their position in different quarters, are known here, and in other parishes, by the common designation of mainse. In the barony, at the period mentioned, there were only three of those farms, and another in that of Idington. During the continuance of the blended property of the several heritors, the further extension of farms and steadings was prevented by the common property they had in the outfields. Of these, the only use which could be made, was that of a pasturage for all the cattle and sheep of the village. Upon the remembrance of some old people still living, the particular account of them is said to have been 63 score of sheep, and 13 of black cattle; and the whole number of horses is reckoned, not so exactly, at 60. The value of one sheep's pasture was 3 d.; of an ox or cow 20 d.; and of a horse 2 s. 6 d. Besides the common moor adjacent to the village, a commonalty, running in a certain track several miles into Eammermuir, appertained to the barony of Chirnside. The privilege of it is known to have been used in the late minister's time, who claimed upon it the pasturage of some lambs or sheep.

We may further judge of the general poor condition of the arable land (except the S. croft, which was let in acres) that, in the sworn valuation of it, the best, or infield part, was rated in the decree of division at 5s. The estimate was so minutely exact, as to include various rates, from that highest one to the lowest, at 1¹/₂d. the acre. This last, indeed, respected the most barren and scaly point of the hill, so incumbered with large whin stones, as to be thought incapable of culture. For the old arable, or S. croft, which was, as in other places of the village, tilled land, the tenants of acres, or portioners of an acre, paid from 6s. and 7s. to 10s.; a rent as high in those times, as when now they pay 30s. This is not to be considered as occasioned altogether by the lower value of money, and its greater circulation among the inferior ranks of people. An acre of land could not then, by any known art or industry, be made to produce what it now does; not so much from the increased fertility of the soil, as from the more advantageous uses to which its fertility can now be turned; by a crop of potatoes, or of red clover, or turnip, being joined to one of corn, even in the same little field *.

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R

From

* Instead of those late and signal improvements in agriculture, it appears, that one stated method of ploughing, and the same succession of corn crops, being here, and all over the country, invariably observed; every attempt to a better practice was restrained, when the use of marl or lime, as a manure, was unknown, and that of dung was the sole one; a certain quantity of it arising from the confinement of the cattle during winter, could only be obtained. Scarcely it served to keep the acres of the S. croft, and the infield of the N. in any tolerable heart. The outfield had no other benefit, but that of being fallowed; which, in those days, amounted to no more than giving the ground a ploughing or two; and then, after an exhausting crop, resigning it to its natural produce, which was only a more abundant one of weeds. In consequence of the
old

From what has been said of the village and barony of Chirnside, previous to the division of the lands, according to

old run-ridge, the arable, and the intermixed property in the outfield, inconveniencies, even in the ordinary course of the land tillage, were necessarily incurred. Adapted to the state of the country, under the policy of the feus, and calculated for common defence, especially in the constant predatory wars carried on in the borders of the two kingdoms, it embarrassed rather than promoted the culture of the fields. The acres, and smaller lots of the arable, were laid out in such a manner, that balks, or strips of untilled ground, being interposed between every 5 or 6 ridges, a waste of the best land was thus made for the sake of marches, not only between the grounds of the different proprietors, but amidst the lots and subdivisions of acres, into which they were cast. In the shape of the ridges, no alteration, howsoever proper, could be attempted; and all the difference of the operations of the plough, consisted in taking either a deeper or shallower furrow, or a wider or closer one. The unalterable curvature of the ridges had a tendency to collect moisture in all flats or dips of the ground. Within the compass of the acres, and their divisions, no useful drains could be formed. In the outfields, they were often impracticable, from interjections of separate property, or the boundaries of it being indistinctly ascertained. In such circumstances, it was no wonder that the husbandmen of those days, whom we are now too ready to accuse, not only of want of skill, but of an indolent and obstinate adherence to their old customs, would find it very difficult to make new or uncommon exertions. That they were tardy, in general, may be understood, from their having certain days, or weeks at least, marked out, especially in the spring season, for commencing their labours. Their ploughs drawn by more oxen than horses, both but poorly fed through the winter, could not accelerate their work. It is to be observed, that the tradesmen in the village, who had portions of acres, either hired their ploughings of the farmers, or else conjoining not only the horses, but the cows they had among them, made shift, with a common or borrowed plough, to perform more thriftily, if not so properly, the tillage required. An old saying, retailed about the time of making the bear feed, is an evidence that the season of it was more apt to be postponed than anticipated. "It is not too late," it was said, "when the leaves of the ash cover the pyes's (*i. e.* magpie's nest.)" The screaming of this noisome bird, at the building her nest on her favourite tree, is seldom heard sooner than about or after the middle of June.

to the shares of the greater and smaller proprietors, it is evident, that impediments were laid in the way of any improvements in agriculture, or increase of population. The decree of division was the first step that led to views of the former, as it put it in every heritor's power to cast his estate into the best shape he could for melioration. The many banks of clay marl had, indeed, attracted the attention of one or two of the gentlemen proprietors, and some feeble trials of it, as manure, had been made by them; but from want of proper knowledge of its qualities, or of sufficient perseverance in the labour it required, nothing of consequence was effectuated. What was done by the late Mr. Hall, within his enclosures, served, however, as a pattern and encouragement to other heritors, to engage in the experimental work; and it happened, fortunately, not only for the better agriculture in the parish, but of the neighbourhood, that two gentlemen, the late Mr. Home of Ninewells, and Mr. Molle of East Mains, found it convenient, to take their whole lands into their own management; a circumstance requisite, when new methods of culture, or new manures, are to be tried in any part of the country, before the tenants can be supposed to assume them into practice. These proprietors became real farmers of their estates; and residing constantly in the country, not only improved their own knowledge in agriculture, but soon taught the tenants, near them, to correct various defects and errors attending its ordinary course. This was done with the more effect, as the enterprises of these gentlemen were gradually carried on; and, in point of expense, little exceeded what the farmers, who had any considerable stock, could afford. From them, lessons were taken of more assiduous, and earlier ploughing; of straight, and closer ridges;

of water furrowing; of seed well winnowed, or changed, and the more effectual working of the lands in fallow.

The beds of marl, so precious in estimation by the gentlemen, did not correspond to what the tenants expected from the use of it, as a manure. 300 loads of it required to an acre of ground, was found an insuperable labour: however great its ultimate benefit was understood to be, its lumpy and hard substance did not dissolve, so as to incorporate thoroughly with the soil, in less than 4 or 5 years; a return too tardy to be waited for, by those who had their annual rents to pay. Only 2 or 3 of the ablest farmers in the country, who had long, and easy tacks, ventured to continue, in a certain extent, the use of it; others, who had come under engagements to marl 2 or 3 acres, in the course of a year, either failed in the performance, or importuned their landlord for a relaxation from it*.

If

* The discovery and proof of the prolific power and quick effect of lime, especially upon new lands, gave hopes of its being adopted in place of marl, to the equal contentment of the proprietors and tenants. Although the lime was not to be got nearer than from the Berwick kilns, or those on the other side of the Tweed, both of them at the distance of 10 or 11 miles, yet the quantity of it necessary to an acre being only 10 or 12 cart loads, taken up in shells, which, if well burnt, produced the double in slack lime, the disadvantage of the carriage appeared to be compensated. But, still, the purchase-money being added to the carriage of the lime, rendered the expense of both too heavy for the tenants; who, not yet assured of all the benefit of the lime *manure*, were not disposed to engage in it, but upon certain terms, with their masters. When leases were entered into between them, a compromise commonly took place about the lime to be laid upon the lands; a fixed quantity of which being carried home by the former, was to be paid for by the latter. Much to the advantage of the tenants, who lived at no greater distance from the lime kilns than Chirnside, as this agreement was, the benefit of it was not taken to the extent it might have been.

If the more abundant crops of corn, consequent to the melioration of the soil, had not been followed with a rise of the value of that commodity, the tenants in the county of Berwick, would hardly have been in any better circumstances than those in the poorest Lowlands of Scotland. It has been observed, what shifts they were often put to, even when agriculture was in the lowest state, about disposing of their ground to any advantage. The average price of every kind of it, was considerably below that of the Lothians. The custom had long obtained of having a larger firloot, than the standard one; and, as the quantity of corn was increased by better cultivation, and manure, they found it necessary to allow the gratuity of a boll

to

been: so common and natural is the fear and doubt about the success of any new scheme to those who, by the failure, may incur irreparable loss. Some tenants would run no hazards until they saw fuller proofs of the fertilizing quality of the lime. Others, blundering in their manner of applying it, threw it upon wet ground, or buried the substance under deep furrows. But these mistakes being corrected, and the fructifying power of the lime becoming more and more visible, the tenants were satisfied with smaller allowances of it in gratuity; and the more enterprising of them hesitated not to purchase it. The change made by it upon unopened lands, excited a demand for large outfield farms, in preference to the confined infield. The best of the former, and what included some of the latter, generally rose from 3s. to 5s. The S. croft of Chirnside, appropriated to the acre-men, gave from 12 to 15s. If some tenants, who, before the efficacy of lime was known or sufficiently proved, had leases of 19 years, and at a low rate, granted them, and yet, for want of stock, or of a spirit of enterprise, did not become so wealthy as they might have been, we need not admire, if we reflect again upon what has been said of the low prices of corn and cattle, these discouraging circumstances to the husbandman, and which could not be remedied, but by the gradual advancement of commerce. It may be added, that it is fit, and *providentially* well ordered, that no new discovery or improvement, even in the most necessary arts, should be carried rapidly to its perfection, but that, by a progressive knowledge and skill in it, that 1, but 2 or 3 generations may have some share in the benefit.

to the score, for the encouragement of merchants ; which has been but lately laid aside. It has been since thought, that the gentlemen farmers, and the tenants, were too liberal in this concession, since that country, which had the 2 sea-ports of Berwick and Eyemouth, could, and did, in some years, furnish from 40,000 to 60,000 bolls of corn to the market, would have been constantly applied to, without such inducement by the corn-merchants at Edinburgh, and other towns. It had, however, a good effect ; as, instead of commissions being only given to correspondents at the sea-ports, to purchase certain quantities of grain, the agents of the merchants came, and, residing in Berwick for some time, dealt themselves with the farmers upon the spot. This market, before but partially opened, gave fresh vigour to the operations of the plough, and prompted, especially, the preparing and manuring of more land, for wheat crops, that brought round sums into the hands of the husbandmen. Their gains were, as yet, no more than what their great expense, in the purchase of lime, and their other labour, required : But the honest ground of that wealth, to which they afterward attained, was now laid on that persevering industry, joined with much economy in their manner of living, which they continued to practise and exemplify.

Chirnside Hill was as much, and rather more, adapted, to pasturage, than to agriculture ; and it has been mentioned, what scores of sheep, and black cattle, traversed the common field. Confined within the bounds of each heritors possession, after the division of the lands, it required some time, on the part of the gentlemen farmers, before either their pasture, or their breed, could be amended. Purposes of this, particularly with respect to the sheep, were entertained ; but, as yet, the enclosures, ex-
cept

cept those of Whitehall, were few, and not properly prepared to receive them. The few wedders and ewes, kept by the gentlemen for domestic use, had instructed them in the profits to be made of this useful animal; than which, if duly fed, and attended to, no other can be turned to more account. The laying down of lands, manured, and in good condition, for pasture, was one of the greatest objects in husbandry; because, by means of it, land could be rested from exhausting corn crops, and yet produce what was equal to the best value of them. This could not be doubted, when experience showed what fields, of a more early, and sweeter grass, than the natural kind, could be obtained, by the sowing of white clover-seed. The use and advantage of the red clover, mixed with rye-grass seed, had also been proved in the luxuriance of its crops, that might be cut for the labouring cattle, or made into hay. The neighbourhood of Northumberland, where much attention had been paid to the breed of horses, afforded the opportunity of improving that of the country, when now the ploughing with oxen began to be disused, and, in the lighter lands, the more expeditious and tractable two-horse draught, to be adopted. In general, it appeared, by the improvements in husbandry made by the gentlemen farmers, that its progress was such, as to combine the proper and advantageous breed of all the live stock upon farms, and especially that of sheep, with the growth of corn. Whence might be added, the profits of the dairy, to those of the barn-floor; and, in particular seasons, the defects of the latter be, in some measure, compensated by the benefits of the former*.

In

* While, yet, the enclosed and meliorated lands were retained in the possession of the proprietors, the culture of potatoes in the fields had been tried

In consequence of all those improvements, agriculture and husbandry, in the two baronies of the parish, were fast advancing to that signal stage at which they are now arrived. Not only all the infield, but almost the whole outfield and moor-land, was, from the year 1770 to the 1780,

tried with much success. A vegetable that could be easily reared, and at little expense, which, desirable at the tables of the rich, afforded a wholesome and cheap food to the poor, and might be used in place of bread, appeared to deserve the attention and labour of the husbandman in a great degree. But the production of it in large quantities, was soon found to reduce the value to little or nothing. As it could not answer all the purposes of corn-meal, it could never be made such an object to the cultivation of land, or the public in general, as the latter. Crops of potatoes came, therefore, to be regarded as subsidiary only to those of grain; so useful, indeed, that they could not be wanted in the most plentiful years; and, in those of scarcity, would keep lower the price of meal, when poor families, having the resource of potatoes, would require smaller quantities of it. The fine light mould of Chirnside crofts, was well adapted to their production; and accordingly, all the common kinds, were advantageously cultivated by the acre-men; while the farmers found it of equal benefit to themselves and their cottagers, to have a proper supply of them, in every season. In this stage of agriculture, and from about the year 1760, or 1765, the S. croft land had risen from 12 and 15, to 16 and 20 shillings. The price of a summer's grafs for a cow, in an enclosure, was a guinea; open, but improved fields, laid down in grafs, were rated at 16 shillings: Still the value of land was advanced, not only in fields of 10, 20, or 30 acres, but in extensive farms. A great encouragement to it arose from the cultivation and growth of field turnips; by means of which a food, cheaper, and more nourishing than hay, could be procured for the winter maintenance of sheep and black cattle. Besides this important use, no plant was found to meliorate the land so much, by delivering it from all weeds. It might be cultivated to advantage, either in broad cast or in drills. The repeated hoeings requisite to reduce the immense vegetation of the plants, so that those allowed to remain might grow to a useful size, might be reckoned the only considerable expense attending the culture of the turnips, fed on which, more milk could be got from the cows in winter; the sheep and black cattle, kept in good condition, or some of the latter being taken up and stall-fed, might be fattened and well sold to the butcher market in the spring.

1787, either enclosed, or put into an improved condition. Knowledge and skill, in the two great departments of farming, were gradually so promoted, that in any offered farm, whether by a first entry to it, or by a renewal of his former lease, every farmer of ordinary understanding could judge of the reasonableness of the rent, and conditions proposed to him. What stocking was required, what expence for lime, what share might be taken by him in the cost of enclosures, and to what account his proper management of the lands in culture, by the plough or in pasture, might be turned, were matters not of vague, but nearly of a just and certain computation. By all the principal farmers, as well as the gentlemen, the powers of the several sorts of ploughs, the Scotch, the English, the feathered-sock, and the plain, the drill, and others of later invention, were known, and such of them used as suited the different grounds to be laboured*.

The chief difficulty in the letting, and taking of land, at the rates, to be immediately mentioned, appeared to be

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relative

* In the course of the period mentioned, when numbers of new farms were taken upon the outfield and moorlands, through the country, live stock of every kind rose to a high value, on account of the vast demand for them. The yoke of oxen advanced from 10*l.* and 11*l.* to 15*l.* and 16*l.*; and the score of sheep, of the best Lammermuir breed, to about the same sum. The price of horses came to surpass all conception. Those sufficient for the plough and cart could not be bought lower than 15*l.* or 16*l.*; and the saddle ones of size, bore much the same price. This phenomenon continued, and, in late years, grew more wonderful, by the still greater rise of the horse-market. It is ascribed to many of the ablest farmers discontinuing their usual breed of horses, while they bestowed so much attention to the increase of their sheep and black cattle. The west country and Irish horses, thus becoming almost the only supply of the market, the price put upon them might be said to be whatever the dealers in them pleased.

relative to those farms, in which large tracks of new ground were to be opened, and manured with lime. Experience had proved, that the soil, especially if light, might be so stimulated, as in 2 or 3 years, to lose its fertility altogether, and could not admit of repair, but by being laid down in grass pasture, for a considerable time; restrictions, therefore, were to be prescribed to the tenants, with respect to this, by special articles in their leases. The limiting the quantity of such hurtful culture, and how long the land was to be rested, in case the lease was to be extended to a number of years, afforded some ground of discord. The keeping up of the fences, either already made by the landlord, or to be afterward reared by compact with the tenants, at a mutual expense, likewise occasioned hesitation on the part of the latter. But where these points did not impede agreements, large farms were let in the parish at several prices, from the lowest at 12s. to the highest at 20s. the acre; the intermediate rates, and these not reckoned the dearest, being about 16s. The south croft land rose from above 20s. to 35s., and that of the north to 25s.

Having thus traced the progress, both of the value and improvements of the whole lands in the parish, during a course of 45 years, and shown how they kept pace with each other, the result of the investigation presents the comparative and statistical estimate of land property. The farms which, in the beginning of that period, gave, at an average, 3s. the acre, now give 12s.; and those at the medium of 5s. now afford 20s.; whence the increase of the real rent appears to be quadruple. That this advancement, apparently vast, was no greater than the produce of the lands in their cultivated state, and the raised value of their various productions could admit,

admit, we have this incontestible proof, and which does much credit both to the landlords and the tenants:—In all the large farms, taken in the parish, for 20 years back and more, there are only 2 or 3 instances in which a change of the tenants (12 in number, when those of the mills are reckoned), has taken place; and in one of these instances, there was a surcease of the family of the tenant. With this small exception, the present tenants are either those who have succeeded to former leases of their fathers, or, being in possession of their own for many years, have renewed them again. If it be asked, What are their circumstances? The answer is, They are not only those of credit and wealth, but that some of the farmers are in such a degree of both, as will probably raise the rank of their families.

But a mistake is here to be taken notice of, too readily entertained, either by the invidious or the superficial speculators, on what has been stated above, of the quadrupled value of land property; who, notwithstanding what has been proved, that the tenants have profited highly by this event, rashly conclude, that the proprietors are the only, or greatest gainers in consequence of it. So far is this opinion from being just, that it may be affirmed, on the contrary, that had the landlords, either here or in most other parts of the S. of Scotland, forborn their exertions, and spared their expenses of improvement, their rents, in the progressive course of trade and population in the British dominions, would have been, by this time, more than doubled to them. But it is to be presumed, that some of them, when they reckon the cost of their agricultural improvements, will, for the sake of the good done to their country,

adopt the sentiment of Old Hesiod, and say, *that the half profit is better than the whole.* ¹

Wherever the lands, in any country, are cultivated in the manner, and to the extent, that has been represented, there an increased population must take place. For, whether the proprietors retain and improve their own lands, or let them to tenants, the greater the extent of the culture is, the more hands are required to carry it forward. To this assertion, it will be objected, that the heritor may cast around his mansion-house pleasure-grounds, or extensive sheep-fields, which employ few labouring people; but, besides that the instances of the first case are rare, and confined to the greatest proprietors, it is to be considered, that unless mere wildernesses be created by them, in place of fine lawns, or walks of pleasure, such works, as the latter, cannot be accomplished without a vast deal of previous cultivation, and calling in labourers of several kinds. As to their sheep-fields, if the flock much exceed one convenient for domestic services, they must have the knowledge, and exert all the attention, of real husbandmen, to find this sole use of their lands always profitable; for even the best substitution of the management will prove defective. Thus, in the ordinary course of things, it must come to pass, as it ought to do, that the proprietors of lands, to whom it belongs to begin all new improvements, and to verify in practice their good effects, will not find it for their interest, or their pleasure, to act the part of real farmers, for a length of time, and beyond a moderate extent. It is their province to show, what may, and should be done; but as the utmost reach of their labour is limited, and must be slow in the progress, the extension of agriculture over any large district of a country, must be looked for, and can only

only come from the letting of farms to tenants ; that class of people, who, accustomed to all the care, industry, and labour required in husbandry, will be able to produce more from their fields, and make more of what is produced, than any landlord can do.

It has been said, and often repeated and believed, that the letting farms of large extent to tenants, as well as the retention of them in the hands of the proprietors, was a great and public grievance, and the cause of the depopulation of many of the old villages in Scotland. But that, surely, cannot be called a grievance, which, in its aim and issue, was productive of the greatest public good. The question was, How the outfield lands were to be brought to a state of culture ? Those lands that lay without the reach of dung, and to which none could be afforded, and that for successive generations, had yielded only such miserable crops, as were not worth the labour. Without a migration of tenants to them, or the proprietors becoming the farmers, there was not a possibility of their being meliorated. But what tenants could, or would go forth to an enterprise new, and justly accounted hazardous to them ? None, certainly, but those who had some more stock, and either superior skill or more boldness, than others. Even to such, the removal from the known infield culture to the bare outfield, would appear a sort of exile, and a risking of their substance. They had, therefore, many allowances made to them by the landlords ; leases as long as they desired ; and when the manure of marl and lime was introduced, other advantageous concessions that have been mentioned. Yet, upon the division of the barony lands, there were only three of such farms set off by the late Mr. Hall. In consequence of 2 or 3 of the tenants in the village removing to these farms

farms, and the lands they left being cast into allotments, not agreeable, or not accommodated, to some of the remaining husbandmen, 4 or 5 of them are reported to have quitted their places; a diminution of the village people so inconsiderable, as hardly deserves to be mentioned; especially when it is considered, that their room would be supplied either by other tenants, or the account of their families equalled by the addition made to the numbers of Mr. Hall's day-labourers, called *groat men*; of which a considerable number was retained throughout the year, for the purposes of ditching, hedging, and fence-building, and other works carried on in the extensive plantations of Whitehall. The 2 other heritors, who farmed their own estates, found it necessary, for similar reasons, to keep their people about them; so that, for a course of years, the village continued to have nearly the same number of houses and inhabitants. Nor were these diminished by the present proprietor; who, engaging in operations of husbandry, extended over almost the whole of his lands, required so many ploughmen, or hinds, and work people of several sorts, that they and their families were not reckoned, at a gross compensation, to be fewer than 90 or a 100, kept up during a currency of 10 or 12 years. This circumstance merits special attention, when we come now to give an account of the population of Chirnside, increased much beyond what could be expected from any particular advantage in its local situation (excepting its salubrity, and its free stone quarries), and surpassing that of any other such village in the shire*.

The

* Advanced cultivation of the fields brings along with it an augmented population to every village, or township, in adjacency to it, unless there
be,

The statement now to be given of the present population of the village and parish of Chirnside, will sufficiently verify what has been asserted of the unquestionable effect of the land culture, to advance it in a signal degree, in any other such country place, which has the advantage of a natural good soil, and where the landlords are not reserved in granting feus, or many years leases of grounds for houses; although that village were but indifferently favoured, by the situation, for the introduction of any very considerable manufacture. This consideration deserves more regard than what now appears

be, what obtained too long in many places of Scotland, an aversion on the part of the heritors, to grant grounds for houses and areas necessary to them, either in the mode of feu tenures, or of long leases, reckoned equivalent to them. The objections to these tenures, as either disadvantageous, or inconvenient alienations of their property, were not soon overcome among the landlords in general. But offers and solicitations for them becoming more frequent, it appears; that, in the year 1767, 9 of them had been admitted by Mr. Hall, and his predecessor, in the form of long leases; yet it was not till the year 1770, that a progressive addition, both to the rented houses of the village, and those in leases, was gradually carried on, to the 1790, which may be reckoned that of the present establishment of the village as to the number, and condition of its houses; although, in the two following years, some new ones were built. In this manner, while the principal heritor added to his houses in property, a certain number at intervals of time, and granted such leases of grounds, as have been mentioned, to purchasers, a new town may be said to have been built between the two, in the course of 21 or 22 years; the former being reckoned to have erected 20 houses, and the latter 26. Those of the proprietors building are, several of them, accommodated to the reception of 2 or 3 families, and 1 or 2 capable of containing as many more; so that there cannot be now, as formerly, any computation made of the number of families from that of the houses. All the new ones are neatly constructed of free stone, some of them having 2, and others 3 stories; 31, or more of them, are covered with red tiles, and 5 with blue slates; and a few, for which other heritors have afforded ground, have the lately approved covering of the corded thatch.

appears to be paid to it; when our speculations of advancement in opulence and population are turned, almost wholly, upon the multiplication and encouragement of cotton-mills, and other such manufactures, as correspond not only to the domestic use and consumption of their articles, but suppose the greatest imaginable foreign demand for them, the benefit of which cannot be long assured to any particular nation, from the rivalry of it in other countries, the change of fashion in clothes and dress, and the variable, and often unaccountable fluctuation of commerce from one seat of it to another. The only commodities that have a never-failing consumption, and a perpetual requisition for them, are the first gifts of Providence to man, the fruits of the earth, improved and extended by his labour, and the cattle multiplied over a thousand hills. In the possession of these, the natural strength of any nation is placed, and the riches derived from them are sure. The British isles, peculiarly suited to the attainment of this internal and permanent opulence, require only to join to it, and their home manufactures, the fisheries of their seas, to have a population unimpaired by long unhealthful foreign voyages, and unconsumed by the dispersion of their inhabitants, in colonies, over every climate of the earth, which, not thriving, are the burials of them; and when prospering, either draw more benefit than they give to the parent countries, or throw altogether off their connexion with them. But if, in the world of Europe, as it has gone for some centuries, and may proceed, there be some political necessity, that such commercial and colonial enterprises should be promoted, yet, surely, the ardour for them, whether it arises from a supposed augmentation of public credit, and branches of
revenue,

revenue, or party gains, ought not to be pushed so far as to be injurious to the internal welfare of the people at large. It will be endangered, and suffer several ways, if a proper balance between agriculture and commerce be not attended to, and, as much as possible, maintained. If, for the sake of working up a multiplicity of materials for the purposes of the latter, the bulk of our common people be drawn into the cities and manufacturing towns, so that the country villages, whence must come food and provisions for the whole community, are left with a scarcity of labourers in husbandry, the farmers must then either pay such extravagant wages as the defective number of them will insist upon, and consequently raise the prices of their corn and cattle, or else be induced to diminish the land culture, and look for their profit to their live stock, which can be managed with the fewest hands. In years unfavourable to the growth of corn, this abatement of its sowing will be sensibly felt. A loud cry, for its dearth, soon comes from the manufacturing towns. The journeymen threaten to leave their work, or to have higher wages. Perhaps, too, a manufacture unsuccessful, or not answering the expectations of its masters, breaks up. The disbanded workmen crowd into cities, already in tumult, and increase the unhappy commotions.

But, here, dropping this disagreeable part of the subject, we only subjoin, that every landlord, who, by his encouragement of agriculture, and affording room for the establishment of houses, cherishes the village industry and population, is worthy of much praise. He promotes that labour absolutely necessary to the life of man, and which, while it multiplies the species, tends

to preserve them, in a state the least liable to be corrupted; and proves a counter check to the employment of the great body of the common people in those arts, which the prevalence of luxury, and the unbounded extension of foreign commerce require, but that are not carried on in any nation, without the morality of the lower classes being vitiated to such a degree, as may soon become destructive of its welfare.

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755, was 383*. The state of the population in the year 1791, is exhibited in the following table.

Souls in the village,	-	609	16 ditto,	-	3	-	48
— in the country,	-	352	2 ditto,	-	2	-	4
			9 ditto,	-	1	-	9
Total,	-	961	Masons,	-	-	-	15
			Carpenters,	-	-	-	12
Families in the village,	-	150	Spinning-wheel wrights,	-	-	-	3
— in the country,	-	64	Coopers,	-	-	-	4
Males,	-	485	Thatchers,	-	-	-	7
Females,	-	476	Weavers,	-	-	-	12
Below 10,	-	260	Dyer,	-	-	-	1
Between 10 and 20,	-	175	Tailors,	-	-	-	10
20 and 30,	-	141	Shoemakers,	-	-	-	10
30 and 40,	-	115	Smiths,	-	-	-	8
40 and 50,	-	103	Gardeners,	-	-	-	7
50 and 60,	-	73	Corn-merchant,	-	-	-	1
60 and 70,	-	63	Shop-keepers,	-	-	-	6
70 and 80,	-	27	Brewer, &c.	-	-	-	1
80 and 90,	-	4	Publicans,	-	-	-	5
5 families, of	8	40	Butcher,	-	-	-	1
10 ditto,	-	70	Carriers, between Berwick, Chirn-				
4 ditto,	-	24	side and Edinburgh, once a				
94 ditto,	-	470	week,	-	-	-	2
74 families, of	4	296					

Sheep,

* From a calculation made by Dr. Anderson, he computes the population of the village of Chirnside, and of the country part of the parish, to have been 595 at or about the year 1740; and thinks Dr. Webster's report respects examinable persons only.

Sheep, Black Cattle, &c.—It is almost unnecessary to state the number of sheep, black cattle and horses, either in the barony, or whole parish of Chirnside, comparatively, with what it was 30 or 40 years ago; for it is not in the superior number, but in the better breed and condition of those animals, that the great difference appears. It is such, indeed, in both these respects, throughout the parish, as to be in proportion to the present general meliorated state of the land, compared with its former sterility. Besides the improvement of the breed of the sheep by commixture with the larger kinds of Cheviot, and the North Riding of Yorkshire, which the gentlemen farmers, and the tenants of the richest lands have procured, even the original Lammermuir sort has grown much in size, and in the value of their fleeces, by their better pasture. Of the first, none are sold lower than 30s., and the second give a guinea, and above it. Neither of them are exposed, as formerly, to be starved, for want of fodder in the winter storms; but both have, besides some quantity of hay, the more ample provision of the field-turpips made for them. Of the two, so bred and nourished, we can reckon in the barony about 80 score; while the flocks in the extensive farms of the two Idingtons and of Blackburn, may be computed at near a half of that number. The black cattle in the barony, including in it, as before, the farms of Nine-wells, are not fewer than 14 score. The oxen are either of the Fife breed, or those got at the trysts of Falkirk and Crieff. Some of them, when put into good condition, are sold, at the Dunse and Berwick fairs, to English drovers; others are disposed of at home, either for working cattle, or for the butcher. The stall and tur-

nip-fed are, some of them, of the large English breed. The cows are of various kinds ; but mostly (excepting a few Highlanders) of the Dutch or large size. The number of horses taken up, in the 1792, as liable to the statute labour, and comprehending in it 16 mares with foals, amounts to 173 ; and to it, notwithstanding the present enormous price of horses, we may, at a guess, add 15 or 20 more for the saddle.

Upon the whole of the agricultural improvements, and the population of the parish, it is to be remarked, not only that the latter is founded upon, and grows from the former ; whether in any country village or township, or in the other parochial districts, but that the increase of the population of both will be more or less, according as the improved land about the village is either readily let in small portions, feued, or in leases of many years, by the proprietors, or with reserve, or a restriction to yearly tenants. Wherever the artificers and tradesmen thrive, they will naturally desire to make purchases upon the most liberal footing ; and they will prefer having them, and give the most for them in the places of their habitation, and where they have already acquired houses and yards. They, by this means, are fixed upon the spot, and their posterity will not migrate from it. In the admission of yearly tenants of acres, or portions of them, a preference is always due to the married, before the unmarried. The former, indeed, are mostly those who require to be accommodated with pieces of land ; and it deserves particular notice, how much the meliorated state of it enables the meanest of them, who are industrious, to subsist their families. Out of an acre, although rented at 30s., a day-labourer, without

without any other expense but that of the ploughing, and without abstracting above 2 or 3 days of his earnings throughout the year, can raise, in crops of corn, potatoes, turnips or clover, what is, at least, of 5*l.* value to him, and what he could not obtain with that money. The maintenance of his cow, through the winter, that most necessary article attained by him, is done equal to 25*s.* or 30*s.* of that sum. All the other labour his little field requires, is performed by him, and his wife or family, at spare hours. The difference between him and the artificer is, that he does no daily work at home, and yet is confined, within a certain distance, for his employment; and therefore he engages himself, at a low daily wage, for the whole year, unless he can depend upon having jobs of weekly work in continuance. Excepting the smiths and weavers, the other artificers and trades people can easily change their abodes, where they have not made purchases of houses; as they have, so generally, done in Chirnside, from the encouragement given them, joined to the facility and cheapness of the quarries *.

Antiquities.

* If to this fixed population of the village be added, that of dividing the large farms into smaller ones, with leases only of a moderate extent the population in the parochial districts will emulate that of the village; and in the respects that have been mentioned, its increase will be preferable to it. That the proprietors see this public advantage to be consistent with their particular interest, appears by the subdivisions already made in some of the greater farms of the parish. Like all other matters that have a natural course, this measure cannot fail, gradually, to be followed; so that, as it was found necessary, in the first improvement of land, that either the heritors themselves should take large quantities of it into their own hands for melioration, or else let it extensively, in leases of many years

Antiquities.—When monuments of antiquity are looked for and found, in any part of our island, they are either British and Druidical, or Roman, or Danish and Anglo-Saxon, or Norman, or those introduced in the feudal times; and, perhaps, some peculiar to the borders of Scotland and England. Of the 1st, there are, apparently, none in this parish. The same might have been said of the 2d class, had not the accidental discovery, made about 6 or 7 years ago, of 2 small urns or vases, of the sepulchral form, generally acknowledged to be Roman, led to a different opinion. In digging into a bank of gravel, rarely found in this country, but a ridge of which rises upon the south edge of Billymire, the picks of the workmen struck upon 2 cavities, about 18 inches below the surface of the ground; from each of which fell one of these urns, together with the fragments of human skeletons, skulls and bones. Both the urns were taken up entire, and remain so in the possession of Mr. Hall of Whitehall*.

That

years to capable tenants, so, in order to make the most of improved ground, and to advance its cultivated state, it becomes equally requisite to contract the extent of the farms, and by the admission of more tenants upon shortened, but reasonable leases, to promote a more special and effectual melioration of the lands, in proportion to the greater number of people collected upon them; and who, as knowledge, in the various branches of agriculture increases, will always find sufficient employment, and prove, that wherever the most abundant food and provision for man and the serviceable animals is produced, there the most, or very remarkable increase of the numbers of the people, will certainly take place.

* They are composed of common red clay, about the height of a human span, and have, on their outside, some downward strokes of coarse moulding. The cavities, from which they were dislodged, were about 6 feet in length, and their breadth nearly equal to that of an ordinary grave. Their

sides

That the ancient Caledonians did not consume with fire, but simply inter their dead, and that the monuments of their graves were only the heaped clod, or the grey stone; whence subsequently came the accumulated cairns, in conformity to the traditional ordinance of the Norwegian, or Danish god of war, Woden, has been commonly admitted among antiquaries. But it is contended by some of them, that the South Britons had adopted the custom of burning the bodies of their dead, from their continental neighbours in Armorica (the inhabitants of Bretagne) in ancient Gaul; who are said to have practised it, even before the Romans invaded Britain: yet, although this be a very disputable point, it is not doubted, that the usage of the conquerors had been partly followed, not only by the natives of the subjugated countries in the S., but also by those who dwelt between the 2 Roman walls; some of whom being frequently in leagues, and professed amity with that civilized people, learned, as their historians affirm, many of their customs and arts. Hence, it is alleged, that such numbers of their sort of sepulchral urns have been dug up, in places where the Romans are not known to have

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sides, rudely constructed of stones, with mortar of lime, had a few unshaped flags extended over them; upon which the plough-share appeared to have sometimes grazed. May we not, therefore, justly conclude, that at or near the place where such sepulchral remains, as those described, were found, some Roman troops, if not an army, had taken, not only their passage, but a temporary station; especially, as it would require some space of time for burning, in their manner, and collecting the bones of their dead, or slain; who, when of rank, were distinguished, by having some more honoured part of their ashes put into urns; and for the depositing and preservation of which, the gravelly or driest ground was always looked for, and chosen.

have ever carried their arms; so that unless they be found near their colonial towns, or to their military roads, or acknowledged vestiges of their encampments and stations, they are more likely to be the funeral deposits of the Britons than of the Romans*.

Having

* But, independent of the vestige of a Roman highway, which is not discoverable in any part of the county, but very apparent in the neighbouring, and more inland one of Tiviotdale, about Jedburgh or Caerton Common, we have the best authority, (that of Tacitus, in his life of Agricola), to assert, that this famous commander of the Roman legions marched in this tract of the east coast, when, after having invaded Scotland in one campaign, he entered it again with more powerful forces. His land army, says that historian, was conducted by him so near the sea, as to keep sight, as much as possible, of his fleet, that sailed along the coast. This could not possibly be done by him in this pass of the country, to any advantage, if he marched his army northward, at a greater distance from the sea, than that of Chirnside Hill. In a mile or two beyond it, the hills of Lammermuir arise, and are so cast, as to allow only of some peeps of the sea. With-in its distance, almost every eminence shows it in more extended views; besides this passage into East Lothian being shorter, and less mountainous. But, we shall suppose, that he kept still closer to the sea, which is most probable, and directed his march on this side of the Tweed, so near as the towns of Ayton and Coldingham now stand, yet it is hardly to be thought, that he would have no detached party of his troops, to cover the flank of his army on that side, when he was entering into a pass of the country, unavoidable and difficult. If such a necessary detachment was made only at 2 or 3 miles distance, to observe the enemy, their route, a little westward from the main body, would either bring them to Chirnside Hill, or very near its border. Accordingly, in favour of this supposition, what do we meet with, hardly so far as the throw of a javelin from its south extremity, but, on the other side of Whittadder that bounds this parish, and on the ground of the Allanbank estate—a place called Chester-knows, a name of auspicious import to the antiquary, when he investigates the progression of the Roman arms in Britain. In that place, he might have beheld (as the writer of this account did 30 years ago), the conspicuous remains of an ancient, or very old military entrenchment. Mounds of earth, in signal elevation, and evidently artificial, appeared to the eye at a considerable

Having here no remains of the Danish, or Anglo-Saxon antiquities, but those of the cairns above mentioned, we come to observe what appearances there are of the feudal kind, especially as found in the east border of the two kingdoms. In every barony so situated, and of the nobler and more extensive fiefs, there was generally, *first*; the baron's castle, placed either on the advantageous ground of a hill or precipice; or in the environs of a running water or swamp. In some advan-

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considerable distance. On a nearer view, the ground occupied by them, rising towards Whittadder-bank, facing the north, and almost perpendicular, discovered it to be well chosen for defence, on that quarter; while a double, or triple line of ramparts, secured it upon its declivity, and where it was accessible. They run E. and W., and in a straight direction. There appeared to be vestiges of two other lines, although much sunk, and then partly invaded by the plough, which run from the extremities of the former towards the bank of the water. The whole entrenchment forming a square, but here properly made oblong, on account of its contiguity to Whittadder, might have induced any antiquary to pronounce it, upon a survey, a Roman one. Its ramparts are now very much demolished, yet not quite overthrown, by the repeated attacks of the husbandman. It is no stretch of fancy, but very natural to suppose, that a detachment of troops, moving from Chester-knows north and eastward, in order to rejoin their main army, and having to pass Belly-mire, in the direct and proper line of their march, would be attacked by their enemies in the defiles to be made, at that deep bog, and suffer considerably in the encounter, although they might gain the victory. This (upon the supposition made), appears to have been the case with the Romans; who, having repulsed their enemies, with the loss of some of their captains, had time to find out the ridge of gravel upon the bank of the mire, and there formally deposit their urns. Before the first mentioned expedition of Julius Agricola into Scotland, committed to him by Titus Vespasian, about the 80th year of the Christian æra, this country was but very imperfectly known to the Romans, and any intercourse with the natives, either in war or peace, hardly began, until he led his army as far as the Frith of the Taus, or Tay, and afterward exploring the coasts with his fleet, ascertained Britain, (viz. England and Scotland), to be one island.

ed angle of the latter, or where the bridge or causeway over either of them led to the castle, there was often a fort (such as that known at Dunse, immediately below the town, connected with the castle), called the Bar-nay, or Barnekin. Still more advanced, and, as the rise of the ground favoured the position, stood the tower of watch, overlooking the country around it, but facing the quarter of the enemy. It either stood single, and was of a construction fit for some defence, or being built commodiously close by, or in adherence to the strong-house of some of the vassals, which therefore was called, corruptly, the Peel, and properly, the Pile-house, could be more easily guarded from a surprise. In several places, the church steeples, or bellfries, were so fabricated as to serve for the *speculatoria*, or alarm towers. On this account, although they were otherwise respected, they were frequently set on fire by the superior enemy. Of a structure no less firm, and often with thicker and stronger walls, but lower, was erected the bastile, or prison of the barony, or parochial district; and, upon some eminence not far from it, was fixed the grim and terrific spectacle of the gallows, or gibbet.

In this parish, there is a place called Old Castles, having Belly-mire close on the north side, with much broken ground, and some discoveries of the foundations of buildings about it, which point it out as the site of the baron's castle in some early days. But as to any particulars relative to it, tradition is entirely silent*.

* Yet a probable reason may be assigned for this. The Earls of Dunbar, who joined to their title that of March, and were early, and often appointed wardens of the east border, had not their residence here, but in East Lothian; although the barony of Chirnside, most probably appertained

The last mentioned vestige of feudal antiquity was that of the bastiles. Those prisons, having a Norman name, denote their introduction, or their more frequent erection by the conqueror. They were more numerous in the marches of the borders than any where else, for obvious reasons, and they were also made much stronger. Fully, and generally occupied, they could not fail to be,

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to them, and came afterward to be acquired by the family of Home. Both these lords had, besides it, various fortresses of far more importance to them. Between the two great proprietors, it is likely the baron's castle here had been neglected, and allowed to fall to ruins. This is the more presumable, as its situation, on the south side of the bog, exposed it to be assaulted more easily by the English invaders. The erecting another fort, on the opposite side of the mure, now called Ferny Castle, appears to have been no way necessary, unless it was to supply the defect of the other. A tower, however, reported to have been built by an Earl of Dunbar, and conveniently situated for observation, hard by the church-yard, kept its place: its demolition was not so long ago, nor so entire, but that the late headle of Chirnside, and other old people, had seen its ruins, and its grooved stones carried off, by the masons. Whether the Earl of Dunbar and March, who, along with Lord Douglas, met the English warden of the marches, Lord Neville, at Belly-mire, in the year 1586, for the purpose of concluding a truce, as mentioned in the border history, may be reckoned to have been that earl, who, according to tradition, built or repaired the tower of Chirnside, is uncertain; but the fact recorded gives occasion to observe, why the place of a bog was appointed for such a meeting. It is accounted for, by considering the violent and particular animosity, with which the parties, at war in the borders, were inflamed against each other. Their constant and mutual defiance, and incursions, kept up resentment; so that when the wardens were to meet for negotiating a truce, the infractions of it among their armed trains, were always to be apprehended. To prevent their coming to blows or scuffles, they were kept at some distance from each other, by a sough, or intersection of the ground, chosen for their meeting, until, at least, all the preliminaries were settled between the wardens. Hence, Hauden flank, and the Bounden-road, are often mentioned as the places of their conventions, for treaties; and yet, even those precautions did not always prevail for their peaceable termination.

in the parts of the 2 kingdoms, liable to reciprocal and continual ravages. Towards their being tenanted, not only the prisoners of war, who were kept for mutual exchange, or until they gave pledges for their ransom, but the many marauders and banditti, in time of peace, when taken, also much contributed. Although hanging was the common and ordained fate of the latter, there were parties of them protected by some chiefs of the hords in the recesses of Cheviot Hills, whom it was found proper to spare, from the dread of the most atrocious and bloody revenge of their deaths. On account of these circumstances, the bastiles, on the east border of Scotland, and especially those in the Merse, were built in the strongest manner, and so placed, as to secure them from any open assault, or concealed surprise, by an enemy so near at hand, and ready to attempt the rescue of the prisoners. Of all the grounds in the parish, that now called the Bastel-dikes, where shaped stones, and such as are used for cornices and lintels of doors, have been often turned up by the plough, is naturally the most fenced and inaccessible. It runs out in the west end, like a promontory, upon the broad stream of Whittadder, which there makes a turn upon its north banks, that are, at least, 150 feet high, and have little more declivity than an upright wall. Much broken land, intersected with rivulets, secures it on the north side; and it is only open on the east, where there is, first, a sloping descent, and then a steep path-way down to Idington Mill upon the water. The castle, or strong house, of that village and barony, was also a close guard to it. This description of our old parochial bastile, leads to a remark, which, I know not whether it has been made before, that these edifices not only served the purposes

passes of prisons, but that, taken together with the castles or tower-houses of the chieftains, near which they always stood, they constituted a chain of fortresses, running, partly on Whittadder and on Blackadder banks, from almost the one end of the county to the other. Thus, we can reckon a line of them, at short distances, in this neighbourhood, viz. Kello-bastel, in Edrom parish; the Basteldikes-here; Foulden-bastel; and the Bastel-riggs, in Ayton parish; besides others westward of Kello, the names of which I do not now exactly recollect*.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Chirnside, as a barony, had, and still holds the privilege of an annual fair, at a late season of the year, but accommodated to the demand for its old staple commodity; which was that of facking, or bags for corn. It draws together a good many

* To conclude the antiquities, there are only two names of places in the parish, besides Chirnside, which require etymology, or explication. The first is that of Pepperlaw, a steading, or place of farm-houses, situated on an eminence, making part of the bank of Belly-mire. The name, although odd, is intelligible, when written, or pronounced, as it ought to be. The Pepperlaw, which denotes the hill upon the side of a muddy rivulet, such as issues from a bog, or mire; the word Pepper, being German, or Saxon, signifies black pepper; and therefore, is applied to a stream of a black colour. It has indeed, its interpretation, in the name of Blackburn, given to the village, on the east side of the mire, near which runs a brook of the same source, and complexion. An easy swamp, is, in some places, called the Pepper, and there is one well known by that name near Newbeath, in East Lothian. The other name wanting derivation, is Idington, about which I can only offer a slight conjecture, not having had opportunity of seeing its orthography in any old papers; which, yet, I suspect may be Eddington, denoting a place where there are eddies, or deepening of the shallow water into pools; a circumstance that is apparent and remarkable, all along the entry to it from the W. to the N.

many people ; but few to purchase its former merchandise, which is found in too small and trifling quantities to be an object to the farmers, and much less to the corn-merchants ; the former now buying their corn-sacks by dozens ; and the latter, by several hundreds together, from the large sales of them opened in Berwick, Dunfermline, and other places ; which are supplied from the manufactures of Dunbar and Haddington, and also from London. It would appear, from the little attention paid here, and all over this country, to the growth of hemp, that there is naturally more solicitude about the filling, than the fabricating corn-sacks ; yet this is not a sufficient reason for having no manufacture of them at all. Our old band of 12 weavers, however, is exactly kept up ; if we add to the 10 present masters, 2 apprentices belonging to some of them. Their looms, indeed, are not near so much employed in the fabric of woollen cloth as formerly, when the wealthiest farmers, as well as the common people, were generally clothed from the webs made of the yarn spun by their wives and female servants. In the decline of this thrift, many years ago, the manufacture of linens, coarse and fine, in various degrees, has chiefly occupied the trade ; and 1 or 2 of them wove linen equal to the best Holland. They still have reputation in this branch, to which that of the lint-spinners, in the village, also contributes. Several of them are both expert and diligent, and, using the 2 hand-wheel, will often accomplish 2 slips of more than middling yarn in a day. The sale for it is ready, if not to the weavers at home, to the agents for the factories at Edinburgh, appointed at Dunfermline and other places. For 4 slips, or a spindle, they get 14d. or 15d. When the spinning, which lasts them through the winter and the

the spring, is over, and a suspense of employment ensues, there is always a call for such of them as are not engaged for summer-service, to assist in the planting of potatoes, and performing the work of hoeing them, and the repeated weedings of the turnip fields.

To what has been said of the improved knowledge of the farmers in all the operations of the plough, we have to add, the advantage and convenience they find in the number of hinds, or bred ploughmen, expert and able to perform any agricultural work required of them, who appear, in the hiring market-days, at Dunse and Berwick. Even when a half-year servant is only wanted for carting, and other common work upon a farm, there are few lads here at the age of 18 or 20, used to country service, who cannot occasionally supply the place of a hind; and, in lighter land, at least, manage the plough with propriety and neatness. It is owing to this early usefulness of the young men bred in the country to the farmers, that their wages, several years past, were much raised, and generally complained of, especially by those who could not employ them with equal advantage. When, at first, the farmers were averse to grant their demands, the spirited and stoutest betook themselves to Northumberland, where the tenants, possessing long leases, and having coal and lime at hand, were able to afford the greatest encouragement to labourers of every kind. It must be acknowledged, that many of them learned there to do their work more completely; and such of them as returned here, deserved the wages they asked. It is near 30 years since no good labouring servant could be got for less than 6*l.* or above it, and now they are not hired below 8*l.* or 9*l.*; which is just about the triple of their wages 40 years ago,

ago, and wanting but a fourth of the improved value of the land, proves, that, in a free country, such as Britain, the labouring people can never suffer long by small wages, unless industry generally ceases, or is relaxed; and that they will always, as they are well entitled, have their hire advanced, in proportion to exertions made in the ever-profitable labours of the fields.

It is not to be foreseen, or easily imagined, what accessions a country village may receive, in consequence of the grants of long leases, or feus; to purchasers. Besides thrice the number of masons and smiths, four times that of wrights and shoemakers, and more than double that of tailors, without reckoning their apprentices, stated in the preceding table, together with their masters, we have of 4 gardeners, 2 that keep nursery grounds; and among the merchants, 1 that is a dealer in corn, for himself, and also an agent, resident: and what there was yet less reason to expect, in the number of publicans, 1 who has succeeded so well in that occupation, as to have erected, at a very considerable expense, large buildings, for a brewery and malting, joined with a bakery. This encouragement, in the vending great quantities of ale and wheat bread through the country, appears to be the recompense due to his undertaking and industry. Here we cannot help again recollecting, what was the case in the old village, where every sixpence worth of wheat bread was brought from Dunse or Berwick; when a house for a baker, and a feller of ale, built by the late Mr. Hall, was soon deserted by the tenants, and allowed to fall down, and the presbytery's entertainment could only be found at the bellman's habitation. Yet, in those days, the people were not inactive in such branches of trade, as

were then known, or accounted, in the least degree, profitable *.

Religion and Morals of the People.—The people, in general, are in religion sincere, and as little addicted to superstition, or enthusiasm, as in any country parish. Even so far as the nominal religious divisions obtain among them, they operate not to rancour, or any observable depravation of the Christian temper and spirit. Although Antiburghers and Burghers, to a certain number, have been known among them, almost even since the origin of Secession, and a Cameronian meeting-house has been lately erected in the middle of the village, the bulk of the people continue attached to the Established Church. The individuals of families, that follow these sectaries, are considerable in number; but whole families of them are very few. Among the former, especially of the Burgher, or of the Relief classes, there are several who frequent those congregations,

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* Of this, the eggman of the village afforded a remarkable example. Not contented with being, what some of his fraternity were, in other places, the first merchant in small wares, he formed the scheme of carrying on his particular trade in a superior manner. Well known in the country, and having credit at Berwick and Dunse, he took from Mr. Hall 2 or 3 acres of land. He purchased 2 of the stoutest horses he could find; and taking his travels 20 miles up the country into Lauderdale and Gala Water, and paying for his eggs as he went along, he engaged such a number of customers in the line of his march, as furnished a complete load of them in his four large creels. Piled up nicely, they generally amounted from 1600 to 1800, and frequently exceeded that number. His market was Berwick, where the staple commodity for export to London, being eggs and salmon, his payment was sure and ready, for an article reckoned to make the annual return of above 6000 l. to the merchants; while that of the other was estimated at 8000 l. or 9000 l. To the benefit of this place, and that of his many customers, who kept by him, he presided in the trade for more than 20 years, and got to himself considerable gain.

gations, as hearers, but choose not, or are not admitted to communicate sacramentally with them. Hence the frequent applications made here, and in other parishes, for baptism, and admittance to the communion table, by a good many, who seldom appear in the churches, but upon these occasions. With whom are those people to be numbered? Are they to be reckoned of our church, or among the dissenters? These questions are material, when we estimate the increase or decrease of the one, or the other. The children baptized in the church, although, for the reason given, not entered into the register, to within a fourth of their number, are not only no fewer than they were in any former period, but not much short of being, in proportion to the augmentation of the parishioners. We have constantly had, for above 30 years, from 8 tables of communicants to 9, or a few more; each service comprehending 35 or 40. The tables of this year were filled up to 8, and a few over: We may therefore reckon, that we stand nearly at an equal balance, and in the best token of adherence, which is that of sacramental communion, that the scale is rather more in favour of the church, than of the dissenters.

In the discharge of Christian duties, and in the morality of their lives and actions, the common people, comparatively with others, are laudable. The virtues of honesty and charity are in esteem and practice among them. The sympathy which they express, and the meanest of them testify, by affording all the help in their power to their neighbours in distress, is very remarkable. In all their occupations and trades that have been mentioned, they are industrious, and many of them thriving. None of them complain of poverty, till they are really in want. The frugality of the
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the married women, who have children (and most of them have many), and their care and constant employment, under the burden of them, are such as to require only sobriety and industry, on the part of the men, to bring up their families in a creditable way. When these virtues are wanting, or fail in the husbands, and the attraction of the ale and dram-houses prevails with them, their mates, unable to do more than their accustomed labour, become depressed; and the more so, because the visible want or disorder in the house is generally, and often most unjustly, imputed to them; to which sentence many of their own sex too readily assent. From sensibility and dread of this reproach, their spirits subside. Languor of body and mind seizes them. Various affections unhinge their frame. They behold their children around them, in want of bread, which they cannot supply. Their eyes are set dead with the sight. They agonize, until they can see no more. Their offspring cry to a helpless father; they embrace his knees, when it is a chance, if he is in a condition to take one of them into his arms. Irreclaimable in his vicious habit, if he lives with them a year or two, they are half starved, and some of them are sure to drop; and if he die, which may be better for them, they fall to be maintained upon the parish charity.—So woful are the effects which the intemperate use of spiritous liquors may be observed to produce in all parishes!

The salubrious air, from the elevation of Chirnside Hill, joined with the dry and comfortable houses of the inhabitants, exempts them from the epidemical diseases of agues, or intermitting fevers, that formerly prevailed. Of the putrid kind, there are few. The most common complaint is of rheumatism, or pains in the joints

and limbs. In the sawing of wood, and the working of quarry stones, the men generally strip themselves to a thinner shirt or waistcoat than was used in the days of their fathers; and, from the changeability of a day, in the months of winter and spring, expose themselves to catch rheumatic obstructions. But the disease with many, is the incurable one, of approaching old age. There were several instances, in the last generation, of longevity, to the extent of 85 and 90 years, and 1 or 2 to near 100. The apparent health and measure of strength, which some above 70 now possess, promise their arriving at a remarkable length of years. Fatal here, was the visitation of the small pox in the end of the year 1791, and through the winter months and spring of the year 1792; when, by a contagion in the natural way, between 30 and 40 children were carried off. The preservative means of inoculation might have been, at no expense, obtained; but, from the prejudices of a superstitious kind, still remaining with some female parents, there was no application made for the remedy, until it could not be safely used. The subscriptions now entered into at Dunse, and considerably advanced, for a dispensary of medicines and physical advice, *gratis*, to the poor, proposed to have extension over a large district of the country, may, along with other physical benefits, produce that of preventing like calamities by the small pox; when the means of preservation will be so easily obtained, and the salutary practice of inoculation being extended, will afford conviction of its happy effects to the most scrupulous parents.

Curiosities.—In the small number of them in this parish, it has happened, that about 2 or 3 weeks ago, mere accident

accident brought a curious stone into view. It had dropped from the top of a quarry, worked immediately under the described Chester-knows. Captain Home's attention to it, was occasioned by the mason's brush being stuck into it, and the singularity of its having a hole, and its heavy weight, induced him to have it brought home. It is mostly of an orbicular form; and although of a substance as hard as marble, it is perforated exactly in the middle; it is convex on all sides but one, which is flat; while its other surface is not only rough, but fretted, as if it had been artificially raised into small notches. Its weight, yet untried, may be between 2 and 3 stone. Upon considering these particulars, it was suggested, that being evidently worked upon, and fitted to some purpose of art and utility, it might be the upper part of a *mole-trina* or hand-mill, for corn, such as was used by the Romans in their campaigns. That it corresponded to this conjecture, is evinced from the aptitude of the perforation, to admit an iron axis or spindle, of near an inch thick, which, terminating in the socket of an under stone, excavated for holding corn, and wide enough to receive into it this upper part; and being moveable by a handle fixed to its top, could make the found stone act as a grinder of the grain, with all its power of attraction. Since passing this judgment upon the stone, Captain Home has been informed, by the tenant of the ground, where the Chester-knows are, that, in the course of his agriculture, he had met there with a large hollowed round stone, which, being sunk 3 or 4 feet deep into the earth, was allowed to remain in its place. Whether this stone upon its being inspected, or dug up, may be the wanted tally to that in Mr. Home's possession, we know not; but if the latter be itself judged, by the intelligent in such antiquities,

quities, to be the grinder of a Roman stone-mill, the trenches upon the Chester-knows can hardly be doubted to be the remains of an encampment, or temporary station of Roman troops; and from this being ascertained, a probability arises of their having marched through this part of the country, in the lines, and with the military conduct above supposed*.

Church,

* There are three springs or wells of water, which have curiosity; one of them upon the S. extremity of the East Mains estate, has its copious issue in a bed of marl. Its taste, and the ochre colour of its slime, prove it to be a pretty strong chalybeate, or mineral water; but being impregnated with marly particles, it is glutinous upon the palate, and therefore not so light upon the stomach. It has been formerly, and is still resorted to, by some of the common people, affected with scorbutic eruptions; but with what benefit is not, to my knowledge, well ascertained. Some old book is said to report its medicinal virtues and vogue. The other two springs that rise in the place called Spence's Mains, a little west of the church-yard, deserve notice, not from any singular quality in either, but from the one being soft water, and the other hard, when their distance from each other is not above 6 or 7 steps.—The old plane tree at Ninewells, which, in the grove a little E. of the house, rears its straight stem, and lofty top, is an object that attracts the eye, to such a production in the vegetable system. It measures, by the girth, 17 feet of solid wood, below the boughs; which, although generally strong, and spreading, have at their top a fading, which marks their suffering by the endurance of the blasts of many winters, which cannot be reckoned fewer than 150, in revolution: For the oldest people of the last generation, when asked about its appearance, in their memory, said, that they never remembered it but in full growth, and with some marks of its being at the age of declining.—A species of the gypsum, if not the best kind, but of which some plaster has been made for ceilings of rooms, little inferior to that of Paris, or very good stucco, shows itself on the side of Whittadder banks, opposite to this, where yet there is the same appearance of that substance. Its quantities, such as it is, here, and in the neighbourhood, are vast; and if tried in powder, to fertilize land, to the degree alleged of the gypsum, large supplies of it can be furnished.

Church, Manse, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—That the church here may be 2 or 3 centuries old, appears from the architrave, or coarse fluting of its principal door, and also from a stone, of about a foot square, taken down at the rebuilding of the east aisle, or old choir, having a few rude and faded characters upon it, which, just legible, are these: Help the pvr (poor); and the figures 1573, joined with them. That the church might be older than this signature upon the choir aisle, is not improbable, from the appearance its walls have of being much pieced up in the inward side. Its vaulted roof has been, many years since, taken down, and converted into the present one of cupples, and blue slate, with serking of deals. It was, probably, among the first in this country so covered; the advantage of which, in point of interest as well as propriety, when compared with the continual repairs of the thatched roofs, was long and late of being apprehended or admitted by many heritors. It is now in ordinary and tolerable condition, but has not yet received such decent reparations within, as are exemplified in several neighbouring churches*.

The

* The tomb-stones of the church-yard cannot be passed over, as they exhibit that of the Reverend Mr. Henry Erskine, first minister of the parish after the Revolution 1688; whose sons, Ebenezer and Ralph, were the principal and famous leaders of an open and well known secession from the Established Church. The first was reckoned the pillar of the party; while Ralph was allowed to be the best scholar, with a vein for Latin and English poetry, but particularly fertile of riddles, in both of which the elegiac distichs upon the tomb-stone of his father sufficiently bear record. Mr. Henry died in the year 1696, and was interred, not in burial-ground of the Episcopal ministers, and as such, resigned to their successors in office, but in considerable separation from it; and what is rather remarkable, there was no fraternity of coffins and bones between the clergy of the two churches, by those of Mr. Millar, his immediate successor,

The manse, rebuilt in the year 1757, is well constructed in its walls and roof, but its dimensions are rather narrow for a large family. The office-houses have been, some years since, also rebuilt. The glebe, consisting of 8 English acres and a rood (the stations of houses being included), is fenced with hedge and ditch, and has a subdivision in the same fashion. The stipend amounts to nearly 39l. in money, and 4 chalders of victual, three parts of which are oats, and a third bear. The communion elements are comprehended. **William Hall,**

successor, who was soon called to Leith, nor by those of the late Mr. Home, who was buried in the vault of the Ninewell's family in the E. aisle. The late bellman, who lived to above 80, and remembered Mr. Lattie, the Episcopal clergyman, who retired to Eynmouth, saw, (reckoning that gentleman, and the present incumbent), the succession of five ministers in the parish church.

Yet, another inscribed stone, with a carved scutcheon over the epitaph, deserves attention. It is that of Mr. William Aitkenson (Aitchison), whose natural genius, prompted by an able school-master here, rendered him early such a proficient in writing, arithmetic, geometry, and other parts of mathematics, as carried him out of the line of an operative mason, under his father, and marked his ability to proceed in that of the liberal sciences. He went to London; where, observing the advertised want of a writing and arithmetical master, in one of the academies, he presented himself as a candidate for the place. He produced specimen of his penmanship was so much superior to that of the other candidates, that the judges suspected it to be a borrowed piece of copperplate, until it was authenticated by his writing, in their presence. By access to books of science, and other opportunities of acquiring knowledge, during his continuance in the academy, for several years, he became well qualified to be himself head master of one. It was, accordingly, opened in a large house, close by Hammersmith, and kept up with reputation and success, for a few years, until his health declined. Being advised by his physicians to try his native air, for a recovery, he returned here. His aged parents saw him in the habit of a gentleman, and received, as such, in several respectable families. But although he lived, with some hopes of a restoration of health, for about 2 years, the distemper of his constitution proving invincible, deprived him of life, at the age of 35.

Hall, Esq. of Whitehall, is patron of the parish.—The salary of the schoolmaster is 100 merks Scots, or, which is near the same, 1 month's cess of the parish. His house is presently in good repair, and of such length, as affords a large room for the school. To his salary, are added, the emoluments of session-clerk and præcentor, and that of an allowance for being collector and distributor of the assessments for the poor upon the parish roll.—These are levied, not at fixed meetings of the heritors, but occasional ones; when intimation is made from the desk, that the former assessment being expended, a meeting of the heritors is desired, on a day mentioned, to make a farther provision for the poor. At their meeting, the account of the expenditure is presented by the collector; and then the state of the roll being considered, and what alterations have ensued, or may be, from observed circumstances, made in it; such an assessment is appointed, as corresponds to the supply required, until another meeting of the heritors be called. The one half of the collections made in the church is regularly taken up by the collector, and go in aid of the assessments. The other remains with the session, to be distributed in cases of casual distress, to indigent people not admitted upon the poor's roll.

Notwithstanding the birth of Mr. David Hume happened not at Ninewells, but at Edinburgh, this parish may claim him as a native. He was bred up here from his infancy, and he never considered himself as an alien, from the accidental locality of his birth. His monument, erected upon the Calton-hill, at Edinburgh, where he died, is only inscribed with his name, and the year of his death. It is enough; for (as this simple signa-

ture implies) to the literary world the rest is well known.

P. 3. There can be now no doubt entertained, that the stone taken up by Captain Home, is, what it was conjectured to be, the grinder of a Roman moletrina. The stone, sunk into the ground, has been inspected, and found hollowed out, and of the capacity and shape, proper to its being the under part of a corn hand-mill, of a large size. The grinder weighs 3 one-half stone English; so that its weight, compared with its bulk, is little inferior to that of lead. The spar, from which it fell, was close by the excavated stone.

NUMBER

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF FENWICK.

(COUNTY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR,
PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE.)

By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM BOYD.

Name, Extent, Soil, Climate, &c.

FENWICK was erected into a new parish in the year 1642, formerly being part of the parish of Kilmarnock; for this reason, it went at first by the name of New Kilmarnock. But, for some time past, it has been known by the name of Fenwick, from a small village of that name. If *wick* means the same with *vics*, the meaning may be, the village near the fen or bog. *Wick*, I believe, in some places, meant an angle or corner. This would be descriptive of its situation, lying at the corner of what certainly once was a bog, and is still partly so. The parish church stands at the distance of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Kilmarnock, near the great

road which runs through that town from Glasgow to Ayr, and almost at an equal distance from these two places. The parish is about 9 miles long from E. to W., and 6 miles broad. When the disjunction took place, it was considered as the moorland part of the parish of Kilmarnock, and the soil in every part is mossy. In the lower part of the parish, however, the lands are tolerably good; and, in favourable seasons, yield not unfruitful crops of oats and bear, the only grain that is sown here; when there is an open winter, as it is called, and the following summer is dry and warm, the crops are the best. Long continued frost in winter, and rainy summers, are exceedingly hurtful. The corns, in many parts of the parish, are seldom fully ripened, and seldom yield meal for corn. This depends, however, much on their situation, either near the moors, or downward towards Kilmarnock or Dreghorn, where the lands are the best. The air is far from being unhealthy. We cannot be said to have any diseases peculiar to the place. From their situation, the grounds must be damp, and the air moist, but no bad effects follow. Some years ago, a fever prevailed in the village of Fenwick, but did not extend much farther. For many years, the small pox had not been in the parish but in a few scattered families. About the beginning of the last year, 1792, they began to make their appearance. They went through every corner of the bounds, and the numbers that had them were great; but they were very favourable. It was half a year before one died, and only 3 died in all. It is almost unnecessary to add, that they all had them in the natural way. The prejudices against inoculation are great. Some even deem it a sin to give children any thing by way of preparation.

Rivulet,

Rivulets, Surface, Fuel, &c.—Two considerable rivulets, or *waters*, as they are called here, run through the parish from E. to W. Both have their sources in the moor-grounds towards Eaglesham. They unite a little below Crawfordland Castle, in the parish of Kilmarnock, run through that town before it joins the water of Irvine, and at Irvine are emptied into the sea. They abound with trouts, and afford entertainment to those who are fond of fishing; and would be still more plentiful, were they not greatly destroyed in the dry months by the hand. Salmon never come this way; which is owing, probably, to the waters being rendered hurtful to them by the works carried on in Kilmarnock. They very seldom do any harm to either grass or corn. On their banks, there is not a bush.—This parish, though high above the level of the sea, is not mountainous. To look at Fenwick, from Craigie hills in Kyle, it appears a large plain. The ascent from Kilmarnock, Kilmaurs and Dreghorn, is very gradual. At many spots, almost indeed from every farm and every house, the prospect is most extensive towards Kyle, Carrick, the Frith of Clyde, and the Island of Arran, with the tops of the hills in Argyleshire. From the 2 waters already mentioned, the lands have a N. or a S. exposure. The surface is green, and produces tolerable grass. Though in some places there are large proportions of black heath, where the peats are cut, or grounds covered with heath and bent. The most common fuel is peat. What coal is made use of is brought from Loudoun, from Kilmarnock, and from Kilmaurs, at the distance of about 5 miles from the church, and rather to more above it. In the farmers houses, very few coals are used. Formerly every tradesman had his
peat

peat stack. But now they think it more profitable to use coals, than to spend time in summer at the moor, and have only a few for summer use.

Trades, Live-Stock, &c.—Besides the village here called Fenwick-town, there is another, called, from its situation, the Kirk-town. The last stands, for the most part, upon the glebe, and contains about 42 families; the situation is wet. The other contains about 36 families; the situation is dry. The prevailing trades in the Kirk-town are shoemakers; in Fenwick-town weavers. The last is increasing in houses and inhabitants; and, if trade continues, will increase. Here also it is thought that a bleachfield might be set up with considerable advantage. All the other inhabitants of the parish are farmers, who plough so much of their lands, and keep horses or cows and sheep in proportion to their farms. At present, there may be in the parish 270 horses, many of them high priced; 2000 black cattle; and, in the moor farms, 2300 sheep, of the small moorland kind, black faced and black legged. In other parts of the parish, some sheep, from 6 to 8, of a larger kind, for the benefit of finer wool for family use. There are made butter-cheeses, after the Dunlop manner, or what is known by the general name of *sweetmilk-cheese*. And, in the season, they sell calves for the butcher, at very considerable prices, bought up for the Glasgow market; besides what goes to Kilmarnock and Stewarton for the Irvine market. Butter and cheese have both risen of late very considerably in their value, and the sale is always good, when trade is good in Glasgow and Paisley. Though the corn crops are considerable, yet the soil is
better

better adapted to pasture than to tillage, and might be made much more valuable.

Agriculture.—A considerable quantity of potatoes is raised, but mostly for the use of the family. The flax that is sown is also mostly for family use, little being sold; and to sow for the premiums, granted for that purpose, is not known. The lease oblige the tenant to lime a certain proportion of the land before ploughing; but they all complain, that though it rises to the appearance of a good crop, yet the corn either falls down and rots, or does not fully ripen, from the lateness of the soil. Very little is laid down in grass for hay; their chief dependence for fodder being on the straw of their oats and bear, and and their bog-hay, which is often a laborious and tedious work. Rains here are much more frequent than in the parishes farther down in the same district. The farmers begin to labour, as soon as the weather in the spring will permit, though, from the wetness of the soil, they must be later than those who live in the drier lands farther down the country*.

It is but a piece of justice due the people of this parish to observe, that they are remarkably industrious and attentive to their harvest-work; by which means, they have often
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* The following is the time when one farmer began to cut down his corn; and, from his situation, it may be reckoned nearly the average of the parish:

1780, - 14th September.	1786, - 20th September.
1781, - 24th August.	1787, - 1st October.
1782, - 7th October.	1788, - 16th September.
1783, - 3d September.	1789, - 12th September.
1784, - 5th October.	1790, - 26th September.
1785, - 7th September.	

the start of their neighbours, whose limits and climate would be much more favourable. When they cut down their corns, they set them up in single sheaves, which is called gaiting; by this means, if any thing wet, may soon dry. They let them stand thus for some days, but always with attention to the state of the weather. If there is the appearance of rain, they set all hands to work, even at midnight, and put them up in what are called Huts, built in the form of a rick of hay, and covered with two of the largest and the wettest sheaves, called Houtings. They make their huts larger or smaller, according as the sheaves are wet or dried. They keep the dryness they take, even in very bad weather, except the houtings, which are necessarily exposed; and, if well built, hardly any weather spoils them. In this state they stand till the weather is good; and whenever a favourable opportunity offers, they are taken down, and exposed to the drought, if it be necessary: what is dry is taken in, and what is unfit for the barn or barn-yard is hutted again. It is only when they need much work that there is any loss of corn; for the most part very little. Last season (1792), the advantage was great. We had, generally, all in the barn or yard, when others, who might, from more favourable circumstances, been thought to have been far before us, had a great deal to cut down, and the whole of their crops in the field for weeks after us.

Plantations.—There are no woods in the parish. Indeed very little timber of any kind; some few trees about several of the farm houses, and some young trees about the 2 villages, excepted. All the timber that is necessary for almost any purpose is brought at the distance

tance of several miles ; mostly from the woods at Loudoun Castle. It is to be regretted, that this has not been more attended to. In every farm, some part might be planted, without either hurting the grass grounds or the corn fields, which, if enclosed, and taken care of for a few years, would be of profit to the proprietor, for shelter to the cattle, and conveniency of the tenant. Mr. Forbes, merchant in Kilmarnock, who lately purchased some lands, has the honour of being the first who has done any thing in this way. But it is to be hoped, that his example will be followed by others.

Population, &c.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population then was 1113. The number of families, including the 2 villages, is about 244. The average number in each family will be 5, or rather more. Of these, the great majority are of the class called Burgher-Seceders, who left the Establishment at the settlement of the present incumbent. Also a considerable number of Antiburghers, of old standing ; and those who call themselves the Reformed Presbytery, or those who adhere to the covenanted work of Reformation, whose minister, as he resides in the parish of Kilmarnock, preaches in this parish every fifth Sabbath. It is said, that, in the last century, the Quakers began to make some converts, but nothing of that kind is now known*.

VOL. XIV.

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* What may be the number of marriages, births and deaths, cannot at present be ascertained, no register, for some years past, being kept. The tax to government is the pretext for not registering their children ; but that they may not pay the parish schoolmaster's dues, may be, with some, an additional reason. I can only say, that the people generally marry ; and being sober and healthy, have children. The births, for some years past, have

In the parish, there are 46 weavers' looms, of which 14 are muslin-looms ; and, I believe, there will soon be more. There are 16 shoemakers ; 5 tailors, and their apprentices ; 3 wrights' shops ; 3 coopers ; and 1 flax-dresser. We have 9 masons, and 2 maltmen. It is now more common for the sons of farmers to be bound apprentices to some of these trades than formerly. Many having learned the trades here, have gone to towns, and have succeeded well. Some few have gone abroad. We cannot be said to have any manufactures. One man may deal, to the extent of about 20c1. a-year, in buying and manufacturing coarse yarn into what is called brown linens, in flax-seed, and in giving out flax to be spun by the women of the parish. Some of the shoemakers work for the export trade carried on by the merchants of Kilmarnock.—In ordinary seasons, more meal is made in the parish than the inhabitants consume ; considerable quantities go E. to Paisley, Glasgow, and the places adjacent, as the people have friends or connexions. Many, or most of the farmers, fatten their own winter meat. A few fat cattle are killed for their use before harvest, and a few more are killed after it. But there is no market for butcher-meat. We get that from Kilmarnock. The meal is always 1 penny, and sometimes more, the peck, cheaper here than in the Glasgow and Paisley markets.

Language,

have exceeded, I am persuaded, the deaths ; and perhaps there never were in the parish more children and young persons, than at present. There are many who live to an advanced age. One of Lord Glasgow's tenants, near 90, comes to church almost every Sabbath, through a bad road ; and in the year 1784, Matthew Mowat, the bellman, died, aged above 90. He had the charge of the parish bell for above 80 years : His father and he had held the office from the time that the parish was erected, till then.

Language.—The language is that which is common in the Low Country of Scotland. The names of places are sometimes taken from their local situation. Many are plainly Gaelic, and many more, perhaps, from the same, whose meaning, from corruptions in pronunciation and spelling, is forgotten and lost *.

Birds.—The moor grounds are stocked with plenty of moor-fowls, and are much frequented at the season. The curlew and lap-wing are also in abundance. The

H 2

only

* There is a house, the principal stage for travellers between Glasgow and Kilmarnock, called the King's well. Tradition says, that it got this name on the following occasion. One of the James's came W. to settle some disputes at a place called Pothelly-hall, where are the vestiges; and no more, of an old tower. At the spot where the house now stands, his horse drank out of a well, afterward called the King's Well, and also went into a quagmire, which still is known by the name of the King's Stable. On that occasion, he is said to have caused to be hanged 18 of them who were in fault, upon an hawthorn tree, which is still pointed out, and, indeed, has the appearance of being very old. It stands single in a field of one of the farms above Pothelly-hall. Pothelly-hall, at that time, was inhabited by a family of the name of Cochrane, a branch of the family of Dundonald. They had confined the prisoners in a vault, till his majesty came. Being very hungry, as even kings will be, in a country thinly inhabited, and ill supplied with provisions, it is said, that he went into an house, not far from Pothelly-hall, and sat down. The gude-wife gave him bread and milk, the best fare which she probably had. After he had made his breakfast, she told him, that her husband was one of his prisoners, and that it would be hard to hang a man, after having eat his breakfast sitting in his arm chair. When he came to the place, he called first for that man, and desired him to go home, and be a better bairn, before he proceeded to judge the rest. Another tradition says, that the King's Well got its name from the things having happened there when his Majesty was on his way to attend the marriage of one of his own relations at Sorn Castle, some miles farther S.; and that he should have said, from the difficulties which he met with in passing through such bad roads, "that if he were to play a trick on the devil, he would send him to a bridal at Sorn."

only birds of passage are the cuckoo and the swallow. Hares are also in great numbers, were they not destroyed by poachers of different descriptions. And even game-keepers may be game-destroyers.

Minerals, &c.—On the N. side of the barony of Pothelly, there is a free-stone quarry not much wrought, and a thin seam of coal, both at the banks of the waters which separate this parish from that of Stewarton. In the barony of Thowallan, there are 2 lime-stone quarries, both much used. Colonel Crawford has also free-stone and lime stone in his lands, and the appearance of coal. But all the attempts to get a workable mine have hitherto, from whatever cause it may have arisen, proved unsuccessful. The lime stones in the quarry at Ginforth, in the barony of Rowallan, are replete with sea-shells, and other remains of the ancient inhabitants of the ocean. But they are so firmly united with the stone, that they cannot be separated from it without being greatly mutilated.—Near to the King's Well, in the same barony, is to be found what is called the *Scotch-gale*, a species of the myrtle.

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—None of the greater heritors reside in the parish; all the inhabitants are farmers or tradesmen, and all upon the same footing as to rank and education.

The first minister of this parish was Mr. William Guthrie, justly famous in his time. He was ordained in 1644, ejected in 1662, and died in the north in 1665. He was great grandfather to the late Lord President of the Court of Session, Sir Thomas Miller, to 2 respectable clergymen now in Ayrshire, and to the venerable and
learned.

learned Mr. John Warner of Kilbarchan, in Renfrewshire.

Lord Glasgow is patron of the parish. The church was built in 1643, and is still in the same condition as at first, by far too large for the parish; and, from its not being plastered, cold and uncomfortable in winter, the snow often lying in it some inches deep. The manse was built in 1783; an excellent house, as all the new manses in Ayrshire are, though the situation, in the middle of the Kirk-town, is not so convenient. The stipend is 84 bolls and 4 pecks of meal, and 28l. some odd shillings Sterling, in money. The glebe is about 6 acres, besides a large garden, and the ground upon which the greatest part of the Kirk-town stands, the inhabitants of which have been in use to get a new lease from each minister during his incumbency. They pay about 4d. the fall *.

Character of the People, Poor, &c.—In every place, a diversity of characters is to be met with; and we are not without our share of the unruly and regardless. But the people, in general, are sober and industrious. Some few have enlisted into the army. In their circumstances, the people are, upon the whole, easy, and
have

Prices, Wages, &c.—The only fowls reared, are hens, and a few ducks. The price of a hen is from 1s. to 1s. 4d. or 1s. 6d.; ducks sell for 1s. 8d., or 2s. the pair. A labourer's wages are about 10d. or 1s. a day, and his meat; a mason's 1s. 8d.; a tailor's 8d. or 9d.; men-servants are from 3l. 10s. to 4l., the half year; and a maid-servant's from 30s. to 35s., or 40s., with some perquisites: They have been raised almost one-third within these 10 years. The farmers work their lands either by their own families, or hired servants. Work done by cottagers is not known. The tenants in Crawfordland estate lead some coals; in the other lands, there is no service-work whatever

have reason to be contented. There is not a beggar in the parish. Only four are at present on the poor's list ; though some few more get help occasionally. They are supported by collections at the church-doors, and from the remains of a considerable stock, which, indeed, is now very inconsiderable, from the bankruptcy of a trading company, to whom the greatest part of it had been lent in the time of the last incumbent. The Seeders, so far as I know, never give any thing.

Roads, &c.—We are well accommodated with good roads. The great road from Glasgow to Ayr, by Kilmarnock, runs through the parish for more than 7 miles. We have good roads also to Loudoun, Gullfin, to Irvine by Kilmaurs ; and the road to Stewarton is made as far as this parish goes. But as it is not yet finished, it is not of the advantage it would otherwise be as a thorough-fare. Both roads and bridges are now made, and kept in repair from the statute-work, commuted at, I believe, 3d. Sterling upon 1l. Scots valuation.

Rental.—The yearly rent of the parish, including the value of the lands in the possession of the proprietors, may be about 4000l. Sterling. The valued rent is above 5000l. Scots *.

Miscellaneous Observations.—A considerable part of the lower end of the parish is enclosed with hedges and ditches.

* In this late soil, the year 1782 was very hurtful. The snow fell before all the corns were cut down. The greatest part were in the fields, and greatly destroyed by the frosts. Few, if any, preserved seed for next year. The meal of course was bad, some very bad. The only relief which we,

and

ditches. But the hedges are not well taken care of. The cattle are allowed to wander through them, by which means they are rendered partly, at least, useless as fences.—We are much more expensive in dress than 10 years ago. There are 4 ale and whisky houses in the parish, besides the stage at King's Well. The quantities of whisky made use of are amazing; those houses ought to be more attended to, their numbers lessened, as the effects they produce are destructive both to the health, and the morals of the people. We have 2 toll-bars, besides 1 side-bar; at 2 of them whisky is also sold, not always for the good of the neighbours.—In the year 1782, the heritors built a new school-house, and house for the schoolmaster. His salary is 6 bolls of meal, and 40 merks a-year; he has also 10s. for being session-clerk, and 2s. 6d. for every proclamation in order to marriage. The school wages have never been raised, as in all the parishes in the neighbourhood; only 1s. 2d. the quarter for reading English. The number of scholars may be about 40.

Far up in the moor grounds of the barony of Rowallan, there is a farm called Serdgoin. It is entirely a sheep farm. It has been possessed for many successive generations by a family of the name of Howie. The tradition of the family is, that the first who settled there was a refugee from the persecution of the Waldenses. There is no doubt, but they have resided there for some
hundred

and many of our neighbours had, was in the white pease, which, from the price that took place at that time, were disposed of, and considerable quantities of them came W. It ought not to be omitted here, that Lord Glasgow gave a donation, at that needful season, to all the parishes where his different estates are. To this parish, he sent 20-guineas, to be given to such poor as were not upon the ordinary funds.

hundred years. The place is exceedingly remote. And it is not likely that any, at that time, would have taken up their residence there, had they not considered it as a place where they were not in danger of being molested. The master of the family has been a John Howie for many generations, till within these few months, that both father and son—*both Johns, died* *.

Improvements may be said to be only in their infancy; here the tenant goes on in the same old way that his father did before him. They are beginning, however, to be at more pains with their farms in many respects, and it is to be hoped, that the success of some may stir up others. There are hundreds of acres which will not be touched till the country is every where in a higher state of cultivation than it is at present. But there are few farms where, with a little expense, much might not be added, if not to the corn fields, at least to the meadow and grass grounds. But the farmer uses the meadow which his predecessors have made ready for him, and never thinks of adding any to it, how easily soever it may be done. Some years ago, they began to work some of the *bent* ground, as it is called, which never had been ploughed before. The corns, where it had

* The family were much distressed during the troubles in the reigns of Charles and James, in the last century. They preserve here the colours that belonged to this parish, when the covenanters took arms, and which they had with them at the battle of Bothwell Bridge, with the sword of a Captain Paton of this parish, and some other things, which are considered as precious relics of them who were engaged in that good work. There are 3 or 4 of what are called martyr-stones, erected to the memory of those who were shot to death in this place. And there is a cove called Duntonlove, in which, it is said, that they hid themselves at times from the enemy. It does not appear to me ever to have been of much use for that purpose, though, indeed, from the lapse of a century, its appearance may be much changed.

had been limed, were luxuriant, but more straw than corn. Some sowed it the last year that it was in tillage with grass seeds, and the crop was good. But they erred in allowing the cattle to pasture on it too soon. The roots of the grass were broken, the best of the soil trodden down, and almost the whole reduced to the same state in which it was before. There is one, however, who is to be excepted, as not having followed the general practice. And if he who makes three blades of grass grow where only one was produced before, deserves well of his country, his name ought to be mentioned, as his example may be followed by those whose grounds are like his.—Robert Brown bought a small farm in this parish, about 12 or 14 years ago. It had been managed in the ordinary way, part in grass, and part in tillage. But there were 6 or 7 acres to which nothing had been done, and to which he wished to do something. His great object was fodder for his cattle in winter. He hired men to dig part of it with the spade, and to form it into ridges; he afterward limed it, and sowed it with oats. He had more corn than he expected, and the straw was plentiful. This encouraged him to go on; he dressed the first over again, and all that remained in the same way, sowed it with oats and grass seeds. The crop was as good as could have been expected; and, for the 2 last years, the hay that was produced would have sold for 20l. Sterling. Before he did any thing to it, to use his own words, an acre would not have grazed a sheep. He thinks that it will never be fit for the plough! In this, he may be mistaken. But he never allows any of his cattle to pasture upon it, being sensible, that even for grass it would greatly hurt it, both by breaking the roots, and the *sward*, as it is call-

ed, before it is well fastened together. Some have followed his example in part, but only in part, and therefore their attempts have not been attended with the same success.

They have lately marred the lands, in the way in which they cut the peats, by a large hole, 20 or 30 feet square, and so many feet deep, being made in a plain field, because it suited their present convenience, without ever attending to the consequences. This is far, however, from being the case with all. They work, or they oblige others to work, the peat bank, with order and regularity.

Perhaps it would be of advantage, to give longer leases, even though the rent were to rise at certain intervals, or to engage to give the tenant a certain sum for every acre of ground which he had improved, if it was done in a sufficient manner, whether for meadow, or corn grounds. In a few years, the lands might be made much more valuable: But those who have been long accustomed to a certain mode of labour, and never saw better, are apt to think, that it is impossible to make things better.

N U M B E R III.

UNITED PARISHES OF DAVIOT AND
DUNLIGHTY.

(SYNOD OF MURRAY, PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER GORDON.

Name, Extent, Surface, Lakes, &c.

DUNLIGHTY the larger, and probably the older of these parishes, is so called, from a high mountain, or rather hill, at the foot of which the church stands: *Dun le Cbatti*, that is, the hill which is in the middle, and bisects the territory of the *Catti*. The descendants of this ancient, numerous, and warlike people, under the various appellations of Mackintosh, the Chief, Macgillivrays, Macphersons, Shaws, Macbeans, Smiths and Gows, are, at least, 9 in 10, even at this time, of the proprietors and possessors of lands, for a great track on either side of this hill. On its summit are unequivocal marks

of its having been used for a place of rendezvous, or making signals, according to the manners that prevailed among our ancestors in remote ages. There is a very extensive view from it, in all directions; and, for these purposes, was the most eligible of any to the *Glancbatti*. Daviot is said to be a name given to this parish, in memory of David Earl of Crawford, who built the fort, or stronghold, to be hereafter described. But by the manner in which it is pronounced in Gaelic, this etymology seems forced and unnatural; yet tradition has not preserved any other *.

These parishes lie nearly due E. and W. on both sides the river Nairn, extending in length 17 computed, or about 23 measured miles; their greatest breadth of ground, less or more, in cultivation, not exceeding 4 miles; their least scarcely 1½. The external appearance not very inviting, and must seem rather wild and romantic to a stranger; not only are the hills either naked rocks, or covered with heath, without so much as a shrub almost to be seen among them; but even in the low grounds, there are large tracks of peat-moss, or barren moor, incapable of cultivation; but which seem, in most places, well adapted for planting forest-trees, such as fir, larix, &c. This use of such grounds, has been attempted by Mr. Macgillivray of Dunmaglask, Mr. Mackintosh of Aberarder, and Mr. Mackintosh of Far, on their properties.

* These parishes were distinct charges, until about the year 1618, when they were united; and there is still a parochial church and glebe in each. Neither of these glebes are of the legal extent; and upon that of Dunlichity, an encroachment has been made about 60 years ago; which encroachment being a corn-mill and water-lead, it is alleged, cannot be removed. The distance between the churches, is computed to be 4 miles, but will measure near 7; and public worship is alternately performed in them every Lord's-day.

perties, with flattering success; and were the other proprietors to imitate the example, the prospect would be mended, and their estates acquire a great additional value.

About the church of Daviot, and for 2 miles above it, on both sides of the river, are a great many sand-hills, which appear evidently to have been formed, at some very remote period, by the current of contrary tides, by the flux and reflux of the sea, though they are, at least, 300 feet perpendicular height above its present level, or flood-mark, at Naira or Inverness. Near the church of Dunlichty, and westward for some miles, the mountains and hills consist chiefly of solid rocks, exhibiting clear proofs, that earthquakes were formerly more frequent and terrible in this island, than either history or tradition hath conveyed to us, there being almost every where, at the foot of these mountains, innumerable fragments of enormous size, that have been, by these dreadful commotions, severed from their parent rocks. Among the mountains are several lochs, the principal of which are, Loch Ruthven, Loch Dundelchack and Loch Clachan; all of them, the first especially, abound with trout, of a most delicious taste and flavour, of the colour of salmon when dressed, and much admired. They are from 8 oz. to 3 lb. in weight, and bite so keenly with a western breeze, that a skilful angler may catch 4 or 5 dozen in the space of two hours. There is always 1, and sometimes 2 boats kept here, for the purpose of fishing; and gentlemen, at the distance of several miles resort to it in the summer months for diversion. The lake is three miles long, but scarcely one over, where broadest: the other lakes do not furnish sport in such plenty; they have, however, a greater variety of fish, among which are pike and char, which are not in the former. Loch Dundelchack is twice as large as the a-

bove

bove, and very deep. It is remarkable, that it never freezes in winter, but very readily in spring, by one night's frost, when the weather is calm. Loch Clachan is a basin formed by the stream which issues from the last mentioned, at a short distance, and not much above a mile in circumference. Lime rock has been discovered a little below the Mains of Daviot in the bed, and by the sides of the river. A vast many metallic cubes of one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch or more, are found, and appear in this rock; they are of the colour of lead, and contain a great proportion of that metal.

Stipend, Poor, Church, Manse, &c.—The stipend, in 1781, was 52l. 6s. But in 1784, there was an augmentation of 25l.; no part whereof is victual, and the parishioners are not bound to perform any services to him.—The number of poor on the session-roll, is from 40 to 46 persons; among whom, *communibus annis*, there is the sum of 5l. distributed once every year, which sum arises partly from the interest of 36l. mortified money, partly from the collections made in the churches, and partly from delinquents, penalties. Out of the penalties, certain fees are paid to the session-clerk, and kirk officers, amounting to 2l., or thereby, annually; but they have the dues of marriages and baptisms in addition, which are no inconsiderable perquisites.

The church of Dunlichty was rebuilt in 1759, and has had but one repair since, of 25l., about 4 years ago. The church and manse of Daviot, in 1763 and 1764, but not so substantially, having had two repairs since, to the extent of between 80l. and 90l. each time, and now much in need of a third, at the distance only of 7 years from the last repair given them. It has happened to these build-
ings,

ings, what is often the fate of public works of this kind, when given to tradesmen who exhibit the lowest estimates, without inquiring sufficiently into their character and ability. For such underbidders, besides incapacity perhaps, must have temptations upon grounds less fair, to make insufficient work, and mar the undertaking. This remark is but too plainly verified, in the rebuilding of the manse and offices of Daviot, to the great loss of the heritors, and daily inconvenience and prejudice of the minister ever since.

Antiquities.—At the Mains of Daviot, a seat of the ancestors of the present Laird of Mackintosh, there were, till lately, the ruins of a fort or castle, built by the Earl of Crawford, in the beginning of the 15th century. This was, in those days, a place of great strength, being situated on the extremity of one of the sand-hills already mentioned, had a dry ditch and draw-bridge, which divided and fortified it from the level ground on the W., and a strong wall on the other sides, where the height and natural declivity of the hill added much to its security. It was a square building, and enclosed an area of 360 square yards; it had 4 circular towers, 1 in every corner, and containing each 3 stories, all vaulted; had secret passages in the middle of the wall, communicating with large vaulted rooms for the main guard at the principal entry *.

There

* This was a stately edifice, and commanded a very extensive prospect. The walls and towers, except a small breach at the main gate, were all entire about 44 years ago; and, had they suffered no injury besides *natural decay*, might have remained, for centuries yet to come, a specimen of the superior skill of our ancient operative masons. In 1743, a wadset was obtained of the lands of Daviot, where the castle stood; and

Heritors, Population, Rent, &c.—There are 10 heritors and proprietors belonging to these parishes, only 2 of whom now reside, and but 4 who have their family seats in it. The improvements, therefore, either for ornament or utility, have made but slow progress here. Yet Mr. Mackintosh of Far has happily succeeded in both. By enclosing, draining and planting, he has made his paternal estate both valuable and delightful, and it would be esteemed so in the best cultivated country. Colonel M'Gillivray projected improvements on the estate of Dunmaglask on a larger scale; but his premature death has occasioned delay in some considerable parts of the execution. This respectable family is now represented by a minor, nephew to the Colonel.

According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 2176. By a survey of these united parishes, taken 2 years ago, they contain 400 families, including tradesmen and labourers who are married; and the whole number of persons was then 1697. Of these, 430 are of the Scotch Episcopal Communion; all the rest, except 2 Seceders, are of the Established Church. The Episcopalians have a meeting-house, where one of their clergy preaches once in 3 or 4 weeks, but not regularly, and administers the sacrament 4 times a-year, after the manner prescribed by the English ritual. They generally attend our public worship when they have none

and it is much to be regretted, that, in a country where stones are so plentiful as to be an incumbrance, this noble and only monument of antiquity should be partly destroyed for furnishing materials to a modern farm-house and offices. Still, however, a magnificent ruin remained; but it must shake the feelings of every person of taste to be told, that its total destruction was gradually accomplished, during a period of 40 years, for no other purpose than procuring the old lime and rubbish for the possessor's dunghills.

none themselves, and are personally acquainted with the minister. In no country are different religious persuasions attended with more mutual forbearance and charity than in this. Disputes about religion are scarcely ever known to exist here; and of our Episcopalians, it is but justice to say, that while they profess an opinion, that has been censured by some as illiberal, they are truly moderate*.

Year.	Marriages.	Baptisms.	
1784	14	32	Epif. children not included.
1785	12	54	Ditto included.
1786	15	44	Ditto 15.
1787	10	45	Ditto not known.
1788	8	33	Ditto ditto.

Valued rent of Daviot and Dunlichty 3186l. 13s. 4d. Scots money. Real current rent, by the best information that could be obtained, 1500l. Sterling.

Animals, &c.—The black faced sheep have been introduced into the upper part of Dunlichty, but too late to ascertain, with precision, the profit or disadvantage that may accrue from them. They are chiefly in the possession of 6 persons, and have not suffered in the least from the climate of this country. Their whole number does not exceed 2000; medium value, 9s. each; best

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* Owing to an incident, no register of baptisms and marriages has been kept here since the 1783. The numbers for that, and the 4 immediate preceding years, were as in the above sketch; observing only, that always some of the people, in the more distant parts of the parish, are in use of getting their children baptized by the neighbouring and most contiguous ministers, and seldom make a return of their names to our session-clerk.

lambs 5s. ; shots 2s. 6d. The common and cross-breeds are more than double that number; worth, at a medium, 5s. ; lambs from 1s. 6d. to 3s. Black cattle have diminished greatly since the eager desire of sheep-farming has become so general in the neighbouring parishes, and partly in this; there being, from that cause, no way of pasturing them in the glens, in summer, as usual. Their number not above 1300; medium value, 2l. each. There are few saddle or draught horses; but those of the small kind, kept by the tenants for labour and breeding, amount to more than 800; medium value, 2l. 10s. There are 14 corn mills, and 1 fulling mill. Five blacksmiths; a few wrights and coopers; a great many weavers of coarse woollen stuffs; a number of tailors, and a few brogmakers *.

Agriculture, &c.—The soil in these parishes varies much, being in some places sandy and light, in others, spongy and wet, with a clay bottom. In some, it is of a black mossy nature, and in many a composition of all these. The produce, except when the early frosts affect it, is, at a medium to the seed, as 4 to 1. Black oats and rye answer best. Barley and white oats but in few places, and more frequently misgive. The different measures or quantities of land are here denominated Davochs, Ploughs and Auchten parts, and are in an arbitrary and

* The tradesmen are paid for the piece, or with a certain sum or quantity of victual annually agreed on, called *ford*. The best male servants get 6l. of wages, and their maintenance, a-year; the second ditto from 4l. to 5l.; female servants from 28s. to 40s. a year; boys for tending cattle, from 16s. to 20s. each half year; and all classes of hired servants expect, and receive some small perquisite above what they agree for. Day-labourers are from 4d. to 1s. a-day, and their victuals, according to the season of the year, and the species of work they are capable of executing.

And uncertain proportion. Few of the tenants occupy more than one aughten part, the rent of which is from 3*l.* to 5*l.* Sterling. Customs and services, or money conversions in lieu of them, are always exacted, and paid over and above the stipulated rent.—This country abounds with mealers, or people who have houses but no farm. They have generally a few sheep, that are kept with their master's flock; and some are allowed grass for a cow or a horse. Every tenant has 1, and some 2 or 3, of these householders, many of whom are the parents, or wives and children, of a set of people who abstract themselves from us during the greatest part of the year, and seek employment in other parts.

The state of agriculture here is but very indifferent; for besides the great number of small holdings, short leases, and a predilection among the people for ancient modes of farming, however awkward and unproductive, several other causes concur to prevent any great improvements, at least for some time. The soil, indeed, is, in many places, so good, as to yield tolerable crops, even under the present untoward management. But,

1. The climate is so variable, and unpropitious, as frequently to blast the hopes and labour of the farmer by frost and mildews, in the course of one night or morning, in the months of August and September. The level and best fields are most liable to this disaster.
2. The people in general labour with horses instead of oxen, whereby they deprive themselves of a better manure, which, if they had in abundance, would give them earlier crops, and a chance of escaping those destructive frosts, which affect them less or more every year.
3. The landlords oblige their tenants to perform services in spring and harvest, to the neglect of their farms at

these critical seasons ; a practice which, though not peculiar to this country, is evidently detrimental to both. Some of the gentlemen here have therefore dropped these services, and accepted a reasonable conversion in lieu of them. 4. Our young men, how soon they are fit for labour, go to the south country, or elsewhere, for employment ; where they remain some part of the spring, together with all the summer and harvest. This practice operates much against improvements in agriculture, is inimical to the general prosperity of the people, and productive of these two evils to the farmers and tenants in particular, viz. extravagant wages to the few labourers, who, from choice or necessity, may happen to remain at home ; and the introduction of fine clothes, and other luxuries, among the lower class. By the former, there is no proportion between the price of labour and the produce of it. By the latter, the servants themselves consume their wages in expensive dress and other superfluities, while those partial emigrants, or, as they are called, the "South Country lads," live with their parents or relations during the winter upon the common stock of the family. We have 60 persons of this description, and upwards. 5. The last cause unfavourable to agriculture, is not so general, but, as far as it extends, of equally bad or worse effect than some of those which have been mentioned. The whole parish of Daviot, and some parts of Dunlichty, lie within the distance of between 4 and 6 miles to the royal burgh of Inverness, a large and populous town, to which all the tenants, in the above space, send their horses with peats or turf regularly twice a-week, the spring and harvest not excepted. The whole summer is spent in cutting, drying and leading the peats, without
ever

ever attempting any measure that might be in their power for meliorating their farms. The mosses, at same time, are so rapidly cut and destroyed, that great distress for want of fuel must soon ensue; and many of the people feel this distress already. It ought to be observed, however, that, under all these unfavourable circumstances, these parishes, in good years, produce crops sufficient for the inhabitants, and perhaps never felt a dearth but in times of general scarcity. It is obvious, therefore, that they are capable of improvement.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Epidemical or chronical diseases seldom appear in this country. The people, though not robust, are very healthy; and many of both sexes attain to the age of 80 years and upwards. There are, in these parishes, 20 persons now living at and about that age. As to the general character of our people, they cannot be commended for industry. The small returns for manual labour, may perhaps be the reason, since none, by the greatest exertions of this kind, can make rich. They are however frugal, and have a sense of honour and shame, in a high degree for their station; and remarkable for that acuteness of judgment which has been peculiarly attributed to Highlanders. In their morals, they are not sufficiently strict in abstaining from the smaller breaches of duty; but felony, or any great crime, has not been committed among them for many generations. In their profession of religion, they are devout and regular, a little inclined to lay too much stress upon certain local forms and customs not legally imposed, but which, it does not appear, has any bad effect on their morals.

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF SLAMANNAN, OR ST.
LAURENCE.(COUNTY OF STIRLING, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEED-
DALE, PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW.)*By the Rev. Mr. JAMES MACNAIR.*

IN the year 1470, and reign of James II., it is said, that Lord Livingstone obtained a charter, under the great seal, of the lands of Slamannan. His Lordship's successors, the Earls of Linlithgow, and last of Callander, feued out these lands to different persons, the superiority of which continued in that noble family till the year 1715, when they were forfeited, together with the patronage of the church, and became the property of the crown. But whether the foresaid charter contained a grant of all the lands, or only a part, may be uncertain, as the papers of many of the proprietors bear, that their lands were feued from Lord Torphichen. And as these lands are all sucken to one mill, and the rest of the lands

to another mill, though they are interspersed together, it is probable, that Lord Torphichen once had a right to one half of the lands of Slamannan, and the Earl of Callander to the other,

Name.—Though this parish bears both the names of Slamannan and St. Laurence, yet the first of these is now universally used. I find the last only used in the old records of session, and in the presentation issued forth by his majesty, who is patron of the church, where the words are, “the church and parish of Slamannan, otherwise St. Laurence;” from which I am apt to think, that St. Laurence was not the name of the parish, but only of the church. It was originally a prebend; and as a great many old places of worship were called by the names of particular saints, this might be called by the name of this saint. There is an excellent spring of water a little to the south-east of the church, which still goes by the name of Laurence Well; but what the origin of the word Slamannan is, like most other proper names, is very uncertain, and merely conjectural. Some say, it derives its origin from the following circumstance. When the Earl of Callander and Linlithgow, to whom it belonged, first sent up his servant to plough part of it, (it being formerly a barren moor), he asked his servant, how it would work; to which he answered, it would *slay man and mare*. Others again suppose, that from its vicinity to the Caledonian Wood, it had often been the scene of battle, where many had been slain. And to strengthen this opinion, there is, upon the south-side of the church, at a little distance, a small hill, which is called Castle Hill, where, they say, anciently stood a castle. There are no remains of it now, only the farm-house upon

on the west side of it, goes by the same name. And a little to the eastward of this hill, there is another rising ground, where there is the vestige of a trench, and which goes by the name of Killhills, because of the number, it is supposed, that were killed there. Besides, there were anciently here, 2 cones of earth, about 50 yards distant from one another, which are supposed to have been raised as monuments of peace, like the 2 at Dunipace; the one of them still stands, and is evidently artificial; the other was levelled, and the church of St. Laurence built upon it. These circumstances, and the names of these places, together with others at no great distance, such as Balcastle, Balquhatstom, &c., give some foundation for the supposition, that there must have been many slain here; and hence, probably the name Slamannan. Others say, that the name is Gaelic, and signifies the Blind Man's Valley, there being a valley upon the north side of the church from E. to W., where the river Avon runs. But as in all the old writings, the word is universally spelt Slaman-na, without the last *n*, there appears a great similarity in the two last syllables to the word Dalmeny; and I think it very probable, they may be of the same original. Now, Dr. Robertson, in his account of the parish of Dalmeny, says, that the word Dalmeny signifies black heath; from which I am apt to think, that Slamanna must signify some kind of heath, perhaps brown or grey, or long heath, for the parish hath all originally been covered with heath.

Situation and Extent.—This parish lies in the shire of Stirling, and is the most southerly parish in it. Nigh the N. W. end of the parish, there is a point where the three shires of Stirling, Dunbarton and Lanark meet; and at
the

the S. W. end, the shires of Stirling and Lanark meet with the shire of Linlithgow: It consists of the old parish of Slamannan, and a part annexed from the parish of Falkirk. The original parish of Slamannan is from 4 to 5 miles in length, and from 2 to 3 in breadth, and lies upon the south side of the water of Avon, which anciently separated it from the extensive parish of Falkirk, which lay upon the north of the Avon; but about the year 1730, there was a division made of the parish of Falkirk, when the whole parish of Polmont was taken off it, and also a part of it annexed to the parish of Slamannan. The part annexed to this parish lies immediately upon the north side of the river, and is nearly of the same length with the old parish, and about one mile broad; so that the present parish of Slamannan, including the annexation, will be from 4 to 5 miles in length, and from 3 to 4 in breadth.

River and Lochs.—The river Avon, which runs through this parish, from W. to E., takes its rise from a loch in the parish of Cumbernauld, called Fanny Side Loch. It immediately receives a considerable addition from a small rivulet which takes its rise from a moss in the East Monkland parish, about 2 miles distant, and which some think is more properly the head of the Avon. Certain it is, there is a farm-house very near that moss, where this rivulet comes from, which is called Avon-Head. There are also 3 lochs in this parish; one in the north side of the annexation, called the Ellridge Loch, which supplies a corn mill with water, and falls into the water of Avon; the other two are upon the S. W. side of the old parish, called the little and the great Black Lochs; the one of which, namely the little Black Loch, runs E., and the other, the great Black Loch, which is

about half a mile W. from the other, and lies upon the boundaries of this and the East Monkland parish, runs W. It hath lately been made a reservoir to the great canal between the Forth and Clyde, by the run of the water of Calder, by which it is carried into the Monkland canal, and from that, by a cut near Glasgow, conveyed into the large canal. There are some trouts in the water of Avon, and also in the 2 Black Lochs, and some perches and eels ; but none, I believe, in the Ellridge Loch.

Valuation and Rent.—The valuation of the old parish, in the cefs-books, is 2349l. 11s. 7d. Scots, and the annual rent in the year 1771, was estimated at 1040l. 5s. Sterling. The valuation of the annexation is 1066l. 13s. 1d. Scots, and the annual rent, in the year 1771, was estimated at 527l. Sterling. There are, at present, in the parish, 28 residing and 25 non-residing heritors ; and in the annexation, 6 residing and 13 non-residing ; so that the whole number of heritors is 72. The most of the residing heritors farm their own lands, except a few, who have considerable property ; in which case, they let part of it to tenants. And these lands have been in possession of the same families for many generations, perhaps since first feued out.

Soil.—The arable lands on each side of the Avon, for about half a mile, are of a light free soil ; and, if properly prepared, would produce very good crops, almost of any grain. These are interspersed with haughs and meadows, which are of a rich loamy soil. The haughs produce good crops of oats, and the meadows very good natural grass, which is made into hay, and is excellent feeding for black cattle in winter. Some of these lands

are let at 11. the acre, but the most of them at half of that. The soil lying farther off the water for about a mile, is of a strong hard clay, and does not produce so good crops as the lands above described. The rent of these lands may be about 7s. 6d. the acre. The soil in the extremity of the parish is of a very black mossy bottom, and produces bad crops; as the lands lie interspersed amongst mosses, the crops seldom come to perfection. The farmers make most by raising young cattle and by milk, the grass not being fit for fattening them. The 2 first kinds of soil described, may be, and some of it is improved, but the last not capable of much.

The farms here are generally small, few of them being equal to a ploughgate; the most of them only the half, and some not so much. The highest rent of a ploughgate does not exceed 30l. Sterling. They universally make use of the old Scotch plough, and generally have the one half of their ground tilled, and the other lying in natural grass. They let it lie commonly for 3 years, and then plough it for other 3 years. It is generally milch cows they feed upon their ground, with a few young ones to supply the place of the old ones; but there are few or no sheep, the soil being rather wet and mossy, and therefore not so favourable for them. Their wives and daughters, together with a servant, take care of the milk, of which they make a good deal of butter and cheese, and by which the tenants generally pay the most of their rent.

Produce.—The soil produces pretty good flax, not very fine in quality, but strong and good of its kind, though they seldom raise more of it than is for their own use. There is also some bear raised, but the principal produce is oats. Sometimes they sow grass seeds with their bear; but

little of the ground being enclosed, it is much destroyed by the cattle in the winter, when they are allowed to go at large. The want of proper enclosures, with plantations, is a great hindrance to the improvement of the country. Also they lie at a good distance from lime, but not indeed at so great a distance, as that the roads are very bad. They are about 6 or 7 miles from the lime-works of Torphichen or Bathgate, and about the same distance from those of Cumbernauld. Another great obstacle to the regular improvement of the parish is, that a great number of the proprietors occupy their own lands; and though they and their families live very comfortably and independently upon the produce, yet they cannot spare any money to lay out in improvements. However, there are some of them who are both planting and enclosing more of their ground, and making their roads a great deal better. They have, especially of late, made a road through a moor, called Moir's Candle, more than a mile in length, between this and Falkirk, which makes the communication much more easy; and the proposed road between Edinburgh and Glasgow, by Bathgate and Airdrie, it is expected, will be of considerable service to this part of the country.

Population, &c.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 1209. The number of inhabitants in this parish at present is 1010; of whom there are 466 males, and 544 females: and of these there are 263 under 10 years of age; 255 between 10 and 20; 317 between 20 and 50; 126 between 50 and 70; 37 between 70 and 80; and 2 above 80. There are 223 families, including single persons who keep houses by themselves; 312 married persons; 6 bachelors,

lors, or unmarried men; and 20 unmarried women above 40 years of age; there are also 17 widowers and 42 widows. The inhabitants of the annexation were always considered to be nearly equal to one half of the old parish; at present, however, they are a great deal less, being only 272, and the old parish being 738. This is owing chiefly to some of the farms in the annexation being of late purchased by Mr. Forbes of Callander, which are lying in grass, and the houses uninhabited.— Since April 1788, there have been about 139 births, and 47 marriages. There has been no regular register of the deaths kept; but, by comparing the roll of the present year with the one taken up in 1788, I find there are about 70 who have died since that time. Upon an average, therefore, the births each year may be about 32; the marriages 10; and the burials 18.—There are no manufactures carried on in this parish, nor is there any village in it; the few houses which are near the church not deserving that name. The most of the inhabitants are farmers, except a few employed in the other necessary businesses of life; such as weavers, tailors, smiths, &c. But these are only employed in these branches by the inhabitants of the parish; and therefore there are only such a number of them as are sufficient for the parish. There are about 4 smiths, 10 masons and joiners, 12 weavers, 12 shoemakers, 3 tailors, 3 millers, and 1 lint-miller, 3 flax-dressers, 3 public-houses, and a few coal-hewers. These last are employed by the Carron Company, and are sometimes more numerous than at other times. There were more than 20 of them about 2 years ago, and at present there are not more than 5. There is 1 clergyman and 1 school-master; but no surgeon nor writer. There are about
15 heads

15 heads of families connected with the Secession, making in all, with their families, about 78 persons, but many of their families attend upon the parish church *.

Poor.—The average number of poor upon the session roll is about 12. They are supplied by the collections made on Sunday, together with the interest of a small fund of about 150*l.*, without any assessment. They generally get from 2*s.* to 4*s.* the month, and one 5*s.* Sometimes also families, when they are in distress, receive occasional supplies as they need. But none of those who receive from the session are allowed to beg.

Diseases.—The most common disease I have observed since I came to this parish, appears to be the consumption, occasioned not so much by the constitution of the inhabitants, as by the coldness and dampness of the houses. The bad state of the houses often brings on colds upon those that are young and tender, which, if not speedily removed, ends in a consumption. It is not unfrequent also for old people, when confined much to their houses, and unable to take that exercise which is proper for the circulation of the blood, to be troubled with

* The wages of an ordinary ploughman are 8*l.* in the year, and some of them 10*l.* They have risen very considerably of late. A woman servant 3*l.* in the year, and as much ground as sows half a peck of linseed in the summer half year. A labouring man used to be hired at 6*d.* a day, and his meat; but now they ask 8*d.* As there is no market-town in the parish, the price of vivres is always regulated by Falkirk, which is the nearest market-town, and about 5 miles distant.—There is plenty of fuel in the parish, both coal and peat; but peat is most generally used, as every person hath commonly a right to some moss connected with the lands he possesses, or pays only 1*s.* for as many as he can cast in a day. The Carron Company, who work some pits in the parish, supply the country with all the coal they need, though most of the heritors have coal in their own lands.

with great swellings in their legs; and not a few have died of the dropfy, which, it is probable, also originates from the same cause. What strengthens this opinion, is, that these complaints are more frequent among the lower class of the inhabitants, the few families who are in a superior station, and have comfortable houses, not being subject to them. Otherwise the people are generally pretty healthy; and I have observed fewer fevers here than in the neighbouring parishes.

Church, Stipend, &c.—The walls of the church were rebuilt about the year 1753; but the old seating was still continued, which indeed is very old; many seats being marked with the year 1632, and some of them even so far back as the year 1556. It stands, therefore, in much need of being renewed. When the annexation was joined to this parish, they were allowed to build an aisle, for their own accommodation, upon the N. side of the church, at their own expense, and to uphold it for 20 years; and the heritors of Slamannan were bound to uphold the old church for the same number of years; after which they were all to bear any expense upon the church and church-yard walls, in proportion to their valuations. But as they were otherwise annexed only *quoad sacra*, they pay no part of the minister's stipend. The King is patron. The stipend is 50*l.* Sterling in money, 2 chalders of meal, and 1 chalder of bear, a manse and glebe of about 15 acres. There is also 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for furnishing communion elements, together with the interest of 500 merks, which is in the hands of the session. The manse was built more than 30 years ago, since which time it hath not only been frequently repaired, but had a considerable addition made to it.

N U M.

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL AND CULLICUDDEN.

(COUNTIES OF CROMARTY AND ROSS *, SYNOD OF ROSS,
PRESBYTERY OF CHANONRY.)

By the Rev. Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR.

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

THIS parish had formerly been divided into three, Kirkmichael, Cullicudden and St. Martin's, as appears not only from old charters and tradition, but from the burial grounds and remains of the old churches still visible in each of them. St. Martin's had been first annexed to Cullicudden, as both (under the name of Cullicudden) were afterward united to Kirkmichael, about the end of the last century. *Keill-Mbichel* and *Keill-Mbartin*, the Gaelic names of Kirkmichael and St. Martin's, signify, the burying-places of Michael and Martin; who were probably the two Popish saints to whom

* A small part only of this parish is in the county of Ross.

whom the churches were dedicated. *Couill-chuitin* (contracted for *Couill-chutigin*), the Gaelic name of Cullicudden, signifies, the Nook, or Creek of Cuddies; a small delicate species of fish, well known on all the coasts of Scotland, which, during summer and beginning of harvest, are caught in great numbers along the shore of Cullicudden, particularly in a small creek a little above the old kirk. This parish lies on the S. side of the Frith of Cromarty, and in that part of the sheriffdom of Ross and Cromarty distinguished by the names of *an oilein-dubb* (or black isle), and *aird-mheadbonach*, (i. e. high in the middle, or high midland); both of which give a very just description of its situation and appearance, as it is of a peninsular form, nearly surrounded by the Friths of Cromarty and Fort-George, rising gently from the shores of both, to a considerable height in the middle from E. to W.; and 4-fifths of it being as yet uncultivated, and producing nothing but short dwarfish heath, give a black and dreary appearance to the whole, notwithstanding the finely situated and highly improved gentlemens seats with which it abounds. This parish is nearly 8 miles in length from E. to W., and 3 miles in breadth from N. to S.; bounded on the N. by the Frith of Cromarty, and on the S. by the ridge of the *Mull-bui*, or that extensive track of common which stretches along the summit of the Black Isle, from the Mains of Cromarty almost to the county-road that leads from the Ferry of Scuddal to the Ferry of Bewley; being almost 16 miles in length from E. to W., and 2 in breadth from N. to S. As a great part of this very large, and almost useless common, requires nothing but the plough to bring it into culture, and as the whole of it is peculiarly adapted for growing

Scotch fir, larix, oak, &c. ; it is truly astonishing, that it should remain undivided till now.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—The soil is various, as might be expected in such an extent of surface ; but what mostly prevails, is, a black light loam, on a stratum of till, above a hard gravelly clay ; which renders it very wet, and unfit for tillage in winter and spring, and generally prevents the farmers from sowing before the end of March, or reaping before the middle or end of September. On a considerable part of the farms lying on the shore and wester end of the parish, where the soil is light and sandy, on a free-stone bottom, oats are sown the beginning of March, barley and pease in April, and often reaped in the beginning of August. The farmers here, averse to fallowing, green crops, enclosures and winter herding, continue the same plan of agriculture that was practised a century ago. Many of them, indeed, have sown small patches of clover in their little gardens for several years past ; but none of them, excepting 2, ever attempt to fallow, or sow green-crops or grass-seeds in their fields : in consequence of which, these fields are over-run with weeds, particularly quickens (or joint-weed) ; and their crops are very light, in proportion to their sowing ; as they have not, at an average (save on the shores), above $3\frac{1}{2}$ returns of barley, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ of oats and pease. Instead of Kellachye carts, with wicker-baskets of a conical form, and the Scotch plough, of a bad construction, many of the farmers begin to use small box-carts with spoke-wheels, and a small chain plough, with feathered-sock and curved mould-board. On farms of 20 bolls and upwards, the plough is drawn by 6 or 8 oxen in bows and yokes ; and, on lesser farms, by 2 horses, 2 oxen, and
2 cows ;

2 cows ; or by 2 horses and 2 cows. The farms are generally small, consisting of from 10 to 50 acres of arable land ; of which the rents are from 6 to 36 bolls, besides money for vicarage and schoolmaster's salary, with widders, straw, turf, hens, chickens and eggs, either in kind or at a moderate conversion. With only one exception, a lease was never given in this parish for a longer period than 7 years, till, in the year 1782, the late Mr. George Munro gave leases to 2 tenants for 19 and 21 years : Since that time, many leases have been given on the estate of Newhall for 21 years, besides melioration for enclosing the farms, and bringing moor into arable land *.

M 2

Heritors;

* As there has been no moss in this parish for near a century past, the men and horses have been constantly employed, during summer, in cutting, drying, and carrying home sandy turfs, or divots, from the Mull-bui, which; at best, is but a wretched kind of fuel, and often rendered useless by a few days rain, after all the expence of time and labour bestowed upon it. When the season is rainy, as often happens in this country, the situation of the people in this, and the neighbouring parishes, is truly deplorable, during the next winter and spring. From recollecting their former miseries and hardships for want of fuel, there is, at present, an uncommon degree of joy diffused among all ranks, and especially the poor, by the late important and truly patriotic act of Parliament, which takes off the late duty on all coals water borne to the N. of St. Abb's Head ; a tax which was partial and impolitic in the extreme, and has proved most inimical to the agriculture, manufactures and happiness of the northern part of the British empire. As the north of Scotland has long distinguished itself in sending forth its thousands of brave and hardy sons to recruit our armies on every appearance of public danger, it is now to be hoped, from the many navigable friths with which it is intersected, the number of people with which its coasts and glens are inhabited, and the free importation of coals; that its manufactures and trade will rapidly increase, and soon enable it to contribute a great number of hardy seamen, as well as soldiers, to repel the enemies of British liberty and property.—From the superior quality of the grain, and the great quantity of barley distilled in the Black Isle, the price of barley and meal is generally higher in this, than in

Heritors, Population, &c.—The property of lands is divided among 7 heritors (the 3 first of whom reside for the most part), viz. Mrs. Urquhart of Braclangwell, proprietrix of the estate of Newhall; David Urquhart of Braclangwell, Esq.; George Gun Munro of Poynterfield, Esq.; Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Scatwell, Bart.; William M'Kenzie of Pitlundie, Esq.; John Urquhart of Kinbeachy, Esq.; and ——— Duff of Muirtown, Esq.

Besides those of the principal and residing heritors, there are families of farmers, - - - 71

Ditto of mealers and tradesmen, - - - 119

The population in 1755, according to Dr. Webster's

report, was, - - - 1371

The number of souls in 1780, was, - - - 1345

1789, - - - 1199

1792, - - - 1234

Of

in any parish to the north of it. In 1783, meal and barley sold from 16s. to 24s. the boll, and many were in great want of bread, before the supply of grain voted by Parliament, arrived; since that period, meal and pease have sold from 12s. to 18s. the boll, and barley from 14s. to 19s. Wheat is seldom sown, except in small quantities, by the residing heritors, for the use of their own families.

As the wages of servants, day-labourers and tradesmen, with the prices of provisions, are much the same in this, as mentioned in the Statistical Accounts of adjacent parishes, already published, the reader is referred to those for information.

From the want of fuel, manufactures, lime and other means of improving their situation, the inhabitants of this parish are so poor, that there are not above 3 farmers in it who use a bit of butcher meat, a fowl, or a bottle of beer in their family, from one end of the year to the other; nor is there 25 stone of butter and cheese made by them altogether in a season. Potatoes, flummary, bread and brochan, a little cabbage, with potatoes, once and generally twice a-day, for 9 months, is their invariable bill of fare.

Of Kirkmichael and Cullicudden. 93

Of the last number, 568 were males ; 666 females ; and 201 at and below 8 years of age *.

Millers,	-	4	Weavers,	-	-	27	
Ferry-men,	-	-	8	Fishermen,	-	-	4
Merchant,	-	-	1	Dyers,	-	-	5
House-carpenters,	-	8	Coopers,	-	-	2	
Cartwrights,	-	2	Corn-mills,	-	-	4	
Boat-builder,	-	1	Still, of 40 gallons each,	3			
Blacksmiths,	-	4	Ferries,	-	-	2	
Wheel-wrights,	-	2	Black cattle,	-	712		
Shoemakers,	-	9	Horses,	-	-	356	
Tailors, with their ap-			Sheep,	-	-	2391	
prentices,	-	11	Swine, about	-	30		

From the farmers keeping an overstocking of cattle and horses, whereby they are obliged to fend many of them

* As even the small sum payable to the session-clerk on these occasions, is an object to people struggling with poverty, it has been hitherto found impracticable to keep an exact register of baptisms, marriages and burials. The variation that has taken place in the population of this parish, within the short space of 14 years, has arisen from the following causes. The decrease from 1780 to 1789, was occasioned, in a great measure, by the arrears of rent, and other debts unavoidably incurred by the tenants, through the failure of crop 1782, which obliged them, in 1783, to dismiss every servant they could possibly spare, and make their children endeavour to supply their places, at a much earlier period than they were wont to do before ; and ever since that memorable æra, many of the young and stoutest lads, have annually gone to Glasgow, and other places in the W. and S. of Scotland, where the price of labour is high, instead of marrying and settling in the parish, as was the custom formerly. This annual drain of young men, has raised the wages of servants, and is severely felt by the tenants.

The increase of population from 1789 to 1792, was owing to the great encouragement given by Mr. and Mrs. Urquhart of Braclangwell and Newhall to people who settled on, and improved moor-ground.

them to cold Highland grazings in summer, while they have little natural, and no sown grafs, to feed properly such as are kept at home, their cattle and horses are of a diminutive size; while an excellent breed and size of both are reared on the extensive and highly improved farms possessed by the residing heritors. The sheep also are very small, except on the above mainfes, where the Galloway breed has been crossed by the Cheviot, which promises to answer, even beyond expectation, in increasing the size of their body, and value of their wool. Sheep pastured on the shore are generally healthiest; owing, probably, to their drinking salt-water, eating sea-weed, and the grafs which is flooded at stream-tides. 100 large sheep, well littered, are said to make a quantity of manure fully sufficient for 5 acres.

Number of Acres, Rent, &c.—As only the estates of Newhall, Braclangwell and Poynterfield have been surveyed, the incumbent cannot pretend to accuracy, as to the number of acres of which the other 4 estates are supposed to consist in the following statement; nor can he even guess at the extent of common belonging to the parish, and therefore it is not mentioned:

<i>Newhall.</i>	<i>Braclang- well.</i>	<i>Poynter- field.</i>	<i>The other 4 Est.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Acres arable 1112	680	487	740	3019
Do. pasture 550	340	138	180	1208
Do. wood 260	446	162	12	880
Do. moor 1500	2706	356	500	6044
Total, besides the common,				11,157

The valued rent is 2357l. Scots; and the real gross rent, putting a moderate value upon the mainfes, victual rent, customs, &c. is nearly 1500l. Sterling.

Stipend,

Stipend, Schools, Poor, &c.—Mrs. Urquhart of Bracklangwell and Newhall is patroness of this united parish. The kirk is neat and commodious. The manse, lately repaired, is very small, and very improperly situated on swampy ground, below a brae. The stipend amounts to 29l. 8s. 10d. Sterling in money, with 4 chalders of barley, and 4 chalders of oat meal. The glebe consisted, at the incumbent's admission, of 19 acres of poor moorish soil arable, and about 12 acres of barren stony moor; he has since added 6 acres to the arable ground.—As the bulk of the inhabitants reside towards the extremities of the parish, the parochial school is taught in the E. end, by a deserving young man, who has only 8l. 6s. 8d. of stated salary; and a school for spinning, knitting stockings, and reading English, is established by the Honourable Society, in the western end, with a salary of 7l. It is to be hoped, that the period will soon arrive, when the landed interest of Scotland will feel themselves constrained, by the love of justice and their country, to grant something like decent salaries to that most useful class of men, the parochial teachers of youth; who, after a liberal and expensive education, devote their time and talents to the duties of an office, which is not only most laborious and fatiguing in itself, but of the utmost importance to the best interests of society.—There never was an established fund for the poor of this parish: And though the number of those who received of the weekly collections amounted, till of late, to from 60 to 70, the annual collections have seldom exceeded 8l., after paying the session-clerk's and kirk-officers fees *.

Miscellaneous

* Two years ago, the session entered into a resolution of giving no part of the collections, except to such as should assign whatever they might be worth

Miscellaneous Observations.—In searching for lime-stone, in 1786, several specks of rich lead ore were found in a free-stone rock, to the S. of the mill of St. Martin's, by the late Mr. Gordon of Newhall, whose classical knowledge, philanthropy, and engaging manners endeared him to all who knew him: Appearances were so favourable, that workmen had proceeded a good way in cutting through the rock, under ground, in 2 different directions, in hopes of meeting a vein of ore; when his sudden and much lamented death, in January 1778, put an end to the attempt. Some spar, lime-stone, and stone-marl were found in digging through the above rock, in which a number of specks of ore were found embedded. Rich shell-marl was discovered, a few years ago, in a small loch near the mansion-house of Braclangwell, which the proprietor has used, as a manure to his fields, with great success.—Salmon, trout, skate, herrings, whittings, small cod, flounders of various kinds, cuttle-fish, needle-fish, cuddies, and a variety of smaller fry, are caught in the frith opposite to this parish, by hooks and nets, and also by yares (belonging to Newhall and Poynterfield), in which cart-loads of herrings and other kinds of fish are sometimes found enclosed, after the tide leaves them.—About 10 tons of kelp are made, every third year, on the shores of Newhall,

worth at their death, (after paying funeral charges), to the poor of the parish, if they did not leave an indigent parent or child. In consequence of this regulation, the number of poor receiving aid from the session, is now reduced to 35. Besides the weekly collections, the greatest part of which is given by the residing heritors, the incumbent has been at pains, for several years past, to make up a small permanent accumulating fund, the interest of which, he hopes, will, in a few years, afford considerable relief to the greatest objects. It has already increased to 30l. Sterling.

hall.—The late Sir George Munro was the first, in this part of the country, who began improvements in agriculture on a large scale, by enclosing, planting, draining, liming, fallowing, and sowing green crops on his mains of Poynterfield, which now add greatly to the beauty and value of that part of the estate; and very great improvements have been carried on in all these respects, on the mainfes of Braclangwell and Newhall; and these 3 contiguous seats, in full view of the noble bay and harbour of Cromarty, form as beautiful a landscape as can be imagined.—The county-roads and bridges in this parish have been much improved of late, and are in general very good *.

Antiquities.—There is a greater number of ancient encampments in this, than in any other parish in the N.; from tradition, and the general's tent being circular, they are supposed to have been formed by the Danes when they invaded Scotland. It is favourable to this hypothesis, that from the eminence on which these entrenchments are most numerous, there is an extensive prospect in all directions, to prevent their being surprised in their camp; and as they are seldom found above a mile from the shore, if they should have been surprised and defeated by the natives, they could easily have re-

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tired

* Considering the spirited exertions made by the gentlemen of this, and the neighbouring counties, in making good roads and bridges, it is surprising, that little or no attention has been paid to improving the passage boats at the numerous ferries in and surrounding this district of country. It is to be hoped, that this truly important object, will no longer escape their particular notice, and that ferry-boats of an improved construction, as well as piers for receiving and landing passengers, cattle and carriages, will be as seriously attended to, as roads and bridges, especially at the ferries of Invergordon and Fort-George.

tired on board their ships, and landed in some other part of the country, where the inhabitants were not in force to oppose them. There are likewise a great many tumuli or cairns; the largest are formed of stones of various dimensions, and the lesser of earth and stones thrown promiscuously together. In removing the stones of some of these cairns, stone-coffins were found, formed by 4 large and 2 small slabs of unhewn free-stone, containing ashes, and blades of offensive weapons, almost totally consumed by rust*.

Hints respecting Improvements.—It is almost unnecessary to observe, that the establishing woollen, lint, and cotton manufactures in this country, would be of the greatest advantage to the inhabitants. Among many others on the Frith of Cromarty, there is an excellent station for a lint or hemp manufacture in this parish, at the store-house of Newhall, where there is a fine natural harbour, in which ships of a considerable burden could lie unmolested by any wind, excepting from the N. and N. W.—As the soil of this parish is well adapted to raising lint and hemp, the farmers would no doubt take

* The only building in this parish, that has the appearance of great antiquity, is the castle of Craighouse, on the shore of Cullicudden, about a mile and a half westward of the old kirk. It is 5 storeys high, built with run lime on a rock perpendicular towards the sea, which washes it at flood-tide; and being surrounded on the land side by a ditch and high wall, it evidently appears to have been a place of considerable strength. All the apartments of the one half of it, which is most entire, are formed by stone arches, but the floors of the other half, which is evidently more modern, have been laid on wooden joists, part of which are still to be seen on the walls. About 200 years ago, the castle, with the lands adjoining, belonged to the Williamsons of Craighouse. The representative of which family is a Count William in Germany. The castle and lands of Craighouse, afterward became the property and occasional residence of the Bishops of Ross, and are now a part of the estate of Newhall.

take the advantage of this favourable circumstance, if proper lint-mills were erected, and premiums given to allure them to the attempt. Surely the trustees for the improvement of manufactures, &c. cannot suppose, that inducements of that nature are now so necessary in southern counties, where manufactures have been long established, and where the method and advantage of raising lint and hemp are well understood, as in these northern districts, where they are hardly known, and where the people are in that low state of poverty and depression, which has ever been found to check and smother a spirit of industry and improvement.

Besides these, converting all, or, at least, one half of the victual-rents into money, at a moderate rate; giving long leases, with melioration for enclosing the farms, and abolishing thirlage, would have a powerful tendency to rouse a spirit of improvement among the farmers, and render the situation of the people in general much more easy and comfortable than it is at present. Giving premiums to farmers for fallowing and liming their ground, sowing turnips and grass-seeds in their fields, would, no doubt, excite a spirit of emulation and industry among them. And as these are the great and truly patriotic objects which the lately formed Ross-shire farming-society has in view, it is not doubted, but every gentleman of property, in the counties of Ross and Cromarty, will give it his hearty countenance and support. Were they to contribute to the common stock according to their rentals, and pay particular attention to such tenants as should compete for premiums, though they should not succeed, a spirit of improvement might be soon excited in this country, similar to that which arose in Aberdeenshire, from a farmer-society, formed

and patronised by the late Earl of Errol, about 30 years ago. The very attempt would be meritorious ; and should it be attended with the probable and desired effect, besides the pleasure it would give to every benevolent heart, to raise a numerous and most important class of men from a state of inactivity and penury to industry and affluence, the money laid out would soon return to themselves or their heirs with tenfold interest ; and a few years experience of the mode and profit of an improved system of husbandry would, in a short time, render the continuance of premiums quite unnecessary.— Having fairly made the experiment himself for 6 months past, the writer earnestly recommends to farmers who plough with 6 or 8 oxen and a driver, to plough with 2 large oxen in harness, without a driver ; besides saving the meat and wages of a driver, they will plough more, and better than 6 or 8 of their present size of oxen ; they will not require so much provender ; and, if yoked in a cart like horses, each of them will draw a load that 4 of their small garrons would not move. The writer cannot conclude this miscellaneous branch of his subject, without observing, that it must give the greatest pleasure to every friend to his country, to look forward to the many and important advantages that agriculture and manufactures will derive from a Board of Agriculture and internal improvement, sanctioned by Parliament, on the patriotic and well-digested plan proposed by Sir John Sinclair.

N U M B E R VI.

P A R I S H O F D A L T O N .

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF
LOCHMABEN.)

By a Friend to STATISTICAL INQUIRIES.

Name, Extent, Soil, &c.

THE name of this parish is evidently Saxon. In ancient writings, it is sometimes spelt Daltoune; but the origin of the name has not been handed down. The figure is irregular, being intersected on the N. side by Lochmaben; but the greatest extent may be 4 miles in length from N. to S., and 3 miles in breadth. The soil is various, but consists chiefly of a light sandy loam, dry, and very capable of improvement. In some places, it is clay on a till bottom, which retaining the wet, is not favourable to vegetation; but taking it in general, the land is well adapted to cultivation; and, when manured

red and enclosed, amply repays the expense of these improvements.

Population, Proprietors, Air, &c.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 451. From the best information, the number of the people amounts, at present, to 615; of whom 510 reside in Meikle Dalton, and 105 in Little Dalton; and it seems probable, that the population has not decreased since the beginning of the present century. There is no town in the parish, and the only place that deserves the name of a village, is Dalton, near the church, where the courts of the barony were formerly kept; but the number of inhabitants does not now exceed 30 or 40. The parish is the property of 7 heritors, of whom only 2 are resident. The air is healthy, nor are there any particular diseases to which the people are subject. One or two instances of individuals attaining the age of 100, have happened within these 50 years.

Rivers, Fishings, &c.—The parish being bounded by the river of Annan on the E., considerable quantities of salmon, and sea-trouts, are caught in the season, as the deep pools afford them a shelter. It has been supposed, that this river, at a very remote period, instead of discharging itself into the sea below the town of Annan, followed a different course; and running due S. from Dormont, fell into the Frith near Cummertrees church, about 3 miles to the westward of Annan. A level tract of meadow, or boggy ground, from Dormont to the southward, is thought, from many appearances, to have formerly been the channel of the river, which has been shut up and obstructed by some convulsion of nature, by which the present course,

course, through a bed of rocks, has also probably been opened. This, however is only conjecture ; but it is sufficiently evident, that the level surface just mentioned, is well calculated for making a canal, for the purpose of an inland navigation from the upper parts of Annandale to the Solway Frith ; and it is no less true, that such a canal might be executed at a very moderate expense, as it would require few, if any locks. That many advantages would arise to the country in general, from an improvement of this nature, is obvious. In particular, the inland part of Annandale might, by this tract, be supplied with coals, and with lime, for manure, &c., of both which, the carriage by land from the coast is exceedingly expensive and tedious. Wood, iron, slate, and a variety of other necessary articles, which are imported, might also be carried at a much easier rate, than they now are ; and the time consumed in land carriage, might be employed in enclosing, and otherwise improving the country, a great part whereof having been common, though lately divided, remains still in an uncultivated state. It is therefore to be hoped, that when peace is re-established, and credit has attained its former stability, the proposal for such a canal may be attended to, and encouraged by every man of landed property in the neighbourhood, especially as the late truly patriotic measure, so long desired, of permitting coals to be imported duty free, must create a great demand for them ; and if the conveyance into the interior parts of the country was, at the same time, rendered more easy, the present waste of time, in the casting and drying of peat, might in a great measure be avoided and prevented.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—Mr. Macrae of Holmains

is the patron of this parish. The stipend was augmented about 24 years ago, since the settlement of the present minister, and is now 74l. Sterling a-year paid in money. There is also a legal glebe adjoining to the manse, which was excambed for the old glebe, lying in the parish of Little Dalton, where the manse was also situated, almost 2 miles from the church. This being found extremely inconvenient, an excambion took place about 30 years ago; and a new manse was then built, and a glebe laid out at a small distance from the church.—The school-master has the legal salary of 100 merks; he teaches reading, writing and arithmetic.—Only 1 indigent person stands upon the roll; which is very fortunate, as the want of a weekly collection, occasioned by the peculiar circumstances of the parish, would prevent the necessitous from receiving any other support, except what arose from the charitable dispositions of their neighbours.

Agriculture, &c.—Improvement of the soil has made a considerable progress in this parish within these last 20 or 30 years. The contiguity to, and application of lime as a manure, has much contributed to this desirable purpose; many enclosures have also been made; several tracks of common and barren land brought into culture; and the appearance of the country in general greatly altered for the better. Oats and barley are principally raised, and a small quantity of wheat, which requires rather a stronger soil. Potatoes are cultivated with great success; and the crops of grain are much more than sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants, who do therefore export and sell the overplus. Some turnips are also planted every year in the drill way,
which,

which, being regularly hood and cleaned, are a good preparation for an ensuing barley crop. There are no manufactures carried on in this parish. The valuation is 2423 merks, 6s. 8d. Scots; the real rent about 1700l. Sterling. The extent, as nearly as can be computed, is 4500 Scots acres.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The number of horses may be about 120, mostly bred in the parish. The quantity of black cattle cannot be easily ascertained, as the owners are often buying and selling; they are, however, almost the only stock raised, as no more than 3 or 4 farms keep any sheep. The people rear a considerable quantity of swine, which are very profitable. The rates of those articles correspond entirely with those mentioned in the accounts of the parishes of Ruthwell and Cummertrees adjoining; as do also servants and labourers wages. Oat meal and oats are sold at Dumfries market, and frequently shipped for the port of Greenock. The whole barley raised, except a small portion for home-consumption, is exported to Liverpool. —The new made turnpike-road from Annan to Dumfries runs through a small corner of the southern part of the parish. The other roads are kept in repair by the composition for the statute-labour.—No ancient edifices, or natural curiosities, are to be met with in this parish. A tower or fortalice, upon the lands of Holmains, which was the seat of the ancestors of Mr. Carruthers of Holmains, lately proprietor of that estate, and was a considerable stronghold before the union of the crowns, is now fallen into a total decay.—As there are sundry mosses in some parts of the parish, peats are universally prepared and used for fuel, which, as in

other cases, and when the weather is uncertain, require much attention, and consume a great part of the people's time in the summer season. This inconvenience will, however, be in a great degree obviated, by the late act taking off the duty from coal imported ; and the people of Dalton, being at no great distance from the coast, may now avail themselves of this advantage.—The inhabitants of this parish are in general of a good character, quiet, regular and orderly. No crimes, of which the law takes cognizance, have been committed for many years. There are few or no Seceders.

NUMBER

N U M B E R VII.

P A R I S H O F D O L P H I N G T O N.

(COUNTY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEED-
DALE, PRESBYTERY OF BIGGAR.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN GORDON.

Name, Extent, &c.

I CAN form no conjecture from whence the name Dolphington is derived. I only observe, that the principal heritor of the parish bears in his arms a Dolphin fish; but from what circumstance he received this armorial bearing, I have not heard. This parish is situated in the E. corner of the upper ward of Clydesdale, extending about 3 English miles from E. to W., and about $2\frac{1}{4}$ from S. to N., the great road from Edinburgh to Leadhills, by Biggar, passing through it.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF DOLPHINGTON.

Population, according		Schoolmaster,	-	1
to Dr. Webster in		Farmers above 50l. a		
in 1755,	302	year,	-	4
In 1791,	200	Ditto under 50l.		17
Average of births for		Innkeeper,	-	1
10 years, preceding		Smith,	-	1
1791,	5	Mason,	-	1
Males,	104	Carpenters,	-	3
Females,	95	Weavers,	-	4
Under 10 years of age,	50	Shoemakers,	-	0
20,	26	Tailors,	-	0
30,	48	Miller,	-	1
40,	19	Male farm servants,		25
50,	22	Female ditto,	-	18
60,	20	Flax-dresser,	-	1
70,	10	Poor on the roll,	-	8
80,	3	Capital of their		
Above 80,	2	funds,	-	L. 260
Families,	52	Annual income,		L. 16
Seceders, &c.	32	Young persons taught		
Twins born in last 10		English annually,		
years,	3	from	20 to 30	
Proprietors residing,	0	Apprentice to Carpenter,		1
Non-residing,	3	Ditto to Smith,	-	1
Clergyman,	1			

There may be in this parish about 130 milch cows, and 105 young cattle; about 45 horses for plough and cart. There may be from 12 to 18 young horses reared annually. The sheep of all kinds may amount to 1000. The valued rent, in Scots money, is 850l; the real rent may

be 600l. Sterling. The exports are butter, cheese, lambs, old sheep, wool, meal, bear, &c. The causes of the decrease of population in this parish, may be these: Formerly this parish was divided into small farms, and each farmer kept several cottagers; but now the farms are much enlarged, and the farmers, at least many of them, seem to have imbibed a strong prejudice against all cottages, pulling down some of them every year. Another cause of this decrease in population, may be the want of fuel; the parish affording no peat, and the coal, at the distance of near 8 miles, very high priced at the hill, and generally very bad in quality, which makes fuel a dear article to the poor*.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—The soil of this district is for the most part of a light black mould, with a close red clay, and tilly bottom, which makes it generally very wet, and the crops late in harvest. To remedy this, the farmers, for the most part, sow early oats, commonly called Carnwath oats, and some barley oats, which are still earlier than the former, but they must be sowed upon fine rich land, otherwise they produce but a scanty crop. Yet, after all, from its local situation, and a large moor to the eastward, the early frosts in August and September, oft times, in one night, blast all the hopes of the most industrious husbandman, by destroying his crops.

The farmers, in general, are industrious. They plant a considerable quantity of potatoes; they likewise sow as much grass-seeds and turnips as they can, which generally very well repay their labour. There are about

200

* The price of labour and vivres of all kinds, is much the same, as in the surrounding parishes of Dunfire, Kirkurd, &c.

200 acres of enclosed lands in the parish; the rest is all open. Enclosing land in this parish becomes a very expensive and difficult business, as thorn hedges cannot be reared for fences, and stones are not to be got for building them.

Church, Manse, Stipend, School, &c.—The church underwent a complete repair in the year 1786, being then almost rebuilt. It is, at present, in good repair, and a decent place of worship. The manse was built in 1770, but in such a superficial manner, that it has been under the necessity of being repaired several times since it was built, at a very considerable expense to the heritors; and, after all, it is but an indifferent house: damp, by being placed too near a bog; inconvenient, being near half a mile from the church.

As the parish is small, so the stipend is equally small, being no more than 44l. 8s. 10½d., with 50 merks Scots, for communion elements. The teinds seem to be exhausted. This is a stipend by far too small, as times now go, for the support of any clergyman. The glebe contains about 8 acres, which may rent from 6l. to 7l. annually*.

William

* I am sorry to see, that the clergy have lost their bill in Parliament. I think the landed interest have not behaved with all that generosity that might have been expected, in first opposing and defeating the just claims of a very useful set of men. I mean the poor oppressed and too much despised schoolmasters, and now opposing the clergy in a thing where, I apprehend, their interest was not much to be affected. By looking into the acts of the General Assembly, in the year 1750, I find the amount of the whole stipends in Scotland, to be only 50,267l. 15s. 5d. 10-12ths; and that the tithes, not affected by ministers stipends, may amount to near 60,000l. Sterling: So at that period, the clergy had not the one half of the tithes. How far a new division of parishes, or, at least, the cutting off some places from large parishes, and annexing them to smaller, and, by
this

William Brown, Esq. of Dolphington, about the year 1650, mortified 4 acres of land for the behoof of the schoolmaster of the parish, on which land a good dwelling-house is now built. The said William Brown also mortified 1000 merks Scots, the interest of which was to be paid to the schoolmaster, for educating poor scholars; the naming of said scholars to be by the said William Brown, and his heirs: He likewise, at same time, mortified 200 merks, the interest of which was to be paid to the poor of the parish. Lastly, the foresaid William Brown mortified 2 acres of land to the minister serving the cure; but this last mortification has not been possessed by the minister since the Revolution. The late Mr. John Bowie, minister of Dolphington, in the year 1759, mortified and disposed a farm lying in the parish of Dunfire, presently renting 27l. 12s. yearly, free of all burdens, to the minister and kirk-session of Dolphington, to be disposed of in the following manner; viz. 100 merks to the schoolmaster for teaching 20 poor scholars, and no more, the naming of said scholars to be by the kirk-session; 100 merks for educating any lad of a remarkably bright genius, to be allowed him for 6 years, and no longer; or, failing any lad of this description in the parish, the said 100 merks is to be applied to pay apprentice fees; 50 merks for buying bibles, psalm books, &c. to poor scholars; or failing them, to be applied to any other charitable purpose the session shall judge most proper; 50
merks

these means, bringing both the labours and livings nearer to a Presbyterian equality, may be practicable, I think, deserves due consideration; for unless something be done to meliorate the situation of many of the clergy, who have only small parishes, and, what is still worse, whose tithes are exhausted, and consequently can claim no augmentation, they will become not only despised in their respective parishes for their poverty, but their families must feel the greatest distress.

merks to the minister, with all the other profits arising from said lands, to compensate him for his care and trouble as factor and principal manager.

This parish has the honour of giving birth to some eminent men, particularly to the late Principal Leechman of the university of Glasgow, so well known in the literary world; the account of whose life having been so lately published, supercedes the necessity of my giving any further account of him.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are not many remains of antiquity to be found in this parish. I have only observed the following: On the top of a hill, near the middle of the parish, are to be seen the remains of a camp, or fortified place. It encloses near 4 acres of ground, and seems to have been strongly fortified with a wall of earth, and a broad deep trench cut out of the rock, for the whole top of the hill is a rock. It likewise seems to have had some strong out-work, particularly on the corners, where the hill was most easy of access. But there is not the smallest vestige of any stone-houses, or other permanent buildings having ever been erected within the fortifications. I have been told by some of the oldest people in the parish, that there was once to be seen the appearance of a reservoir for holding rain-water, for a spring it could not have, without going to a very great depth; and that this place used to stand full of water after any great rains, but is now almost filled up. If one might hazard a conjecture, I should suppose, that this place was never used as a standing military camp, or station, but rather as a place of security, for driving the cattle to, in any sudden emergency. This country, of old, was much exposed to the incursions of the borderers from
Annandale,

Annandale, who used to come and plunder the country, and drive away the cattle; and it is natural to suppose, that the people would endeavour to secure their cattle, by some means or other.

I am led to conjecture, that this was the principal design, not only of this, but likewise of many other places of the same kind, situated on the tops of the hills in this country, from this circumstance, that about 2 miles to the S., there is another place which goes by the name of the Kip. This kip is situated upon the highest part of another hill, and has a most extensive prospect all over the country, particularly to the N. E. It is composed of a row of very large stones, which must have been brought from some considerable distance, as the hill affords none. These stones are placed in a circular form, of about 50 or 60 paces in circumference, and the middle space filled with small stones and gravel. This place I take to have been intended as an alarm tower, where fires used to be lighted to alarm the country, in case of any sudden invasion. As this place is within sight of Tintock Hill to the S. W., where another place of the same kind seems to have been raised, and as it is also within sight of another a good way to the N. E., and that other in sight of Dunbar, and the eastern coast, so, by lighting fires from one place to another, in the space of a few hours, the country could be alarmed from the borders of England to the Forth, and so on.—In several parts of this parish, stone coffins, full of bones, have been discovered; particularly in one place, the farmer, in levelling and straightening his ridges, came with the plough upon a regular burying-ground, containing a great number of stone coffins of all dimensions, from children to full grown men. These coffins were not of one stone, but of several

ral pieces, set upon their edges, and covered with one above: Nor did they contain any thing but bones, and these almost reduced to dust. When the church was repairing in 1786, the masons, in clearing the foundation of the north wall, discovered a person that had been buried within church, not in the usual way, lying E. and W. but N. and S., covered with a large stone, on which was cut, in a rude manner, the form of a big two-handed word, without letters, or any other figures, but nothing else; his bones seemed to be uncommonly large.

NUMBER

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF ABDIE.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR.)

By a Friend to STATISTICAL INQUIRIES.

Name, Surface, Climate, &c.

NO satisfactory account can be obtained of the name of this parish. It is probable, however, that it is of Celtic origin. The extent of this parish is considerable; but, from the circumstance of its being separated by the intervention of other parishes, into 3 parts, it is not easy to ascertain its precise length and breadth. It is situated between Abernethy and Monimail on the S. of the river Tay, in the heart of the range of high lands, which, to westward, is known by the name of Ochil Hills. The middle part, where the church and manse are placed, is larger than either of the other two parts, and is bounded on the W. and S. W. by Newburgh; on

the N. by the Tay ; on the N. E. and E. by Dunbog and Flisk ; on the S. E. by Monimail ; on the S. W. by Collessie. The E. part of the parish is bounded on the W. N. W. and N. by the Flisk ; on the N. E., E. and S. E. by Criech ; and on the S. and S. W. by Dunbog. The W. part is bounded on the E. by Newburgh ; on the N. by Newburgh and Abernethy ; on the W. and S. by Abernethy. Dunbog on the E. and Newburgh on the W. lying thus in the bosom of Abdie, favour the tradition of their forming, at some distant period, parts of that parish. No traces, however, of the di-junction of Dunbog can now be discovered ; but the curious article, at the bottom of the page, confirms the tradition respecting Newburgh *.

The

* Apud Holyroodhouse, 3tio. die mensis Februarii 1634 years. Anent the supplication presented to the commissioners for the surrender of teinds, for Mr. David Orme, minister at Newburgh, making mention, that where the kirks of Ebdie and Newburgh have been separat these manie years by-past, by act of synodal assemblie, special consent of the patron, gentlemen of the parochin, and all others parties having interes for the time, for manie grave and weighty reasons contained in the foresaid act, and likewise, seeing his majestie has presented the supplicant to the kirk of Newburgh, where he presently serves the cure, by virtue of his Heines's presentation and the Bishop of St. Androis admission, and collation thereupon ; and seeing the said commission are now settling an maintenance and provision for the kirk of Ebdie ; humbly desiring therefor the saids commissioners to ratify the said separation, like as at mair length is contained in the supplication : quhilk being read, heard and considered by the commissioners ; and they having likewise heard Mr. Andrew Murray minister at Ebdie, and the said suppliant, who were personally present ; hereupon, and being well advysit, with all that was proposed and allegit by them heiranent, the Lords ; and others of the commission, for the surrender and teinds, with consent of the saids twa ministers, and heritors present, has ratified, and be the tenor heirof, ratifies the act above written ; whereby the said kirk of Newburgh is separat from the kirk of Ebdie ; and declares the same to be an separat kirk be itself in all time coming ; without prejudice always to the said Mr. Andrew Murray of his right of patronage of the said kirk, according of law

The face of the country, in all parts of the parish, particularly towards the E. and W. extremities, is remarkably uneven. The quantity of arable land, however, is probably not less than in any equal extent of surface throughout the whole length of the Ochil Hills. From the free circulation of air among these hills, and the prevailing dryness of the soil below, the climate, in most parts of the parish, proves very salubrious. The situation of the minister's manse is, perhaps, as unfavourable to health, as any other house in the parish; for it stands close by a lake of considerable extent in low and wet ground.

Hills, Woods, Rivers, Lakes, &c.—Of the many hills in the parish, 2, Clatchart-Crag and Norman's Law, are remarkable; the one for its abrupt precipitous front, the other for its height. Abdie is bare of wood, there being only one considerable spot in the whole extent of the parish planted with trees. It is to be hoped, however, that the proprietors will be induced to convert the inarable summits of some of the hills to use and beauty, by covering them with wood. The grounds, in many places, require shelter; and there is good reason to believe, that the several species of fir planted in the neighbourhood with success, will thrive in the high lands of Abdie. No river runs through this parish: It is, notwithstanding, well watered. It contains several lakes or lochs, the principal of which, in point of largeness and beauty, is the loch of Lindores: this is a fine sheet of water in the middle division of the parish, of nearly a mile in length, and of unequal breadth: It belongs to Mr. Simson of Brunton. Its perch and pike, its ducks
and

and other water fowls, contribute to the amusement of the gentlemen in the neighbourhood, whom the proprietor politely admits to the privilege of fishing and fowling. Were the rising grounds, with which this lake is surrounded on all sides, covered with plantations, disposed in a proper manner, a prospect, it is believed, would be furnished not inferior, in point of beauty, to those presented by lakes, which have attracted much notice, and acquired celebrity. Ill supplied, as the country at present is, with wood, no traveller, in passing along the road which leads from Cupar to Perth, can survey the loch of Lindores, when it opens at once on his view, without being both surprised and pleased. The small wood of Wood-Mill, just showing its northern extremity on the S. W., the manse, church, and church-yard, standing solitary on the W., and the old mansion-house of Old Lindores, with the trees that surround it on the N., have a very fine effect. Taken altogether, they justify the following lines occasioned by the death of the late minister, Mr. Millar*.

“ ’Tis not the site that fixes my regard,
Nor lake, nor grove, nor hills, inspire the bard :

Though

* Short biographical sketches, it is believed, are not foreign from the design of this work. Respect for the young man, whose death the epistle laments, prompts his friend and neighbour, to preserve his memory in this more lasting and public manner, and to say, Mr. Millar was, from early life, distinguished for sedateness, application and engaging manners: he officiated as assistant preacher at Perth with much approbation: he was received with cordiality as minister of Abdie: he performed his duty among his people with diligence and credit. But, so it pleased God, he died in the beginning of the 5th year of his ministry, in the 28th year of his age. A monument is erected over his grave, with proper inscriptions by his father, Mr. Millar, minister of Inchtute.

Though nature here might warm a Thomson's lay,
 Or a Salvator Rosa's powers display;
 And richly grants, as genius may choose,
 Helvetian manners, and Helvetian views;
 Another hour may note the varying face
 Of vale and mountain, and their beauties trace;
 Our morning walks renew and frequent stand,
 To mark that Abdie is a Switzerland."

Antiquities.—If gentlemens seats uninhabited, neglected, or in ruins, may be included under this article, the parish of Abdie has many antiquities, there being 8 mansion-houses in it, Den Mill, Den Muir, Kinnaird, Ayton, Lindores, Wood Mill, Berry Hole, Ormiston, either totally deserted, or inhabited by tenants. The mansion-house of Kinnaird, mentioned by Sibbald as a large new house, is now in ruins. The mansion-house of Den Mill, built 1679, is in the same state, and shows the havoc of time, and the more wasteful and deplorable steps of adversity, supineness and neglect. Indeed, while one looks around him in the parish of Abdie, and marks the many halls now silent, which, in a former century, were the seats of hospitable festivity and joy, he finds some difficulty in admitting, that Scotland is, at present, in a state of higher improvement than it had attained in any former period. The antiquities of Abdie extend beyond the æra of the seats now mentioned. On the summit of Clatchart Crag, are the evident vestiges of a fortification, or place of strength. Sibbald says it had been a strong castle. Traces of fortifications on a larger scale, are more visible on the top of Norman's Law, which, from the situation, and height, and name, one is led to consider as either the work of some of the northern invaders,

or

or as a place of strength and observation, occasioned by their hostile visits*.

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755, was 822. Since 1789, no exact account of the parish has been taken. The minister's roll of that year contains 494 of all ages. The decrease of population must be accounted for, from the enlargement of farms, from diminishing the cottagers, from the non-residence of the principal heritors.

Agriculture.—The farmers of this parish practise the same modes of labouring the fields, and cultivate the same kinds of crops, which have been repeatedly described in
the

* Near the village at Lindores, are pointed out the supposed remains of a castle, said to have belonged to the celebrated M'Duff, Thane of Fife. Tradition adds, that in the view of its being demolished, much of the plate and wealth of it were cast into an adjoining lake, still known by the name of the Sillar Lake. Attempts have been made to connect these traditions with scenes immortalized by Shakespeare, in his tragedy of *Macbeth*. But M'Duff, like Wallace, and other favourite characters, has had too many places of residence assigned him by the fond admiration of his countrymen. At no great distance from the church, and on the way to it from the Abbey of Lindores, there are a few stones called the Licker-Stones: Antiquaries have conjectured licker to be a corruption and contraction of lecturer, and with much show of probability have observed, that formerly, when Bibles were scarce, and the capacity of reading them was confined to a few, the people might assemble at such stones to hear the scriptures read to them. Not many yards N. W. of the Licker Stones, and nearer to the abbey, is a rising ground called the Teind Know; at which, tradition represents the ecclesiasticks belonging to the abbey, collecting the teinds, or tithes. A little farther N. on the grounds of Den Mill, and in full view of the mansion house, appears the Witch Tree, a large spreading plane, of more than one century, which, had it fallen under the observation of a late traveller, might have saved the county of Fife from one of his hasty misrepresentations.

the statistical accounts of neighbouring parishes: like their neighbours they have meliorated the soil by their improvements; and much increased the annual returns of grain. On one farm containing a considerable quantity of low ground, adjoining to the Tay, and subjected formerly to the tides, the tenant, a young man of laudable enterprise, and persevering industry, has, in a great measure, excluded the tides, by running a bank of earth along the whole length of his fields parallel to the river; his returns are nearly double. There are examples of similar exertions and improvements in the neighbourhood; and one cannot help saying, Are not such men entitled to attention, at the expiration of their present leases? The subject of embanking, to which this Article has led, is a very serious and important one on the sides of the Tay. The current of the river, alas! gradually wears away many acres of the finest soil in this part of the country. Within the memory of some persons living, whole fields have been washed away, and these depredations have much increased since the running out of stone heads on the opposite side, for the purpose of protecting the lands belonging to the estate of Errol. The farms are 28; 6 considerably larger; 22 of different extent and value, wrought by about 60 ploughs: two horse-ploughs are most in use. Some farmers use oxen in the plough: Most of them rear occasionally black cattle, and draught horses for sale.

There are no sheep-farms, properly so called, within the parish, though several of the farmers keep small flocks of sheep, as in the contiguous parishes, for pasturing their high grounds, amounting, in whole, to about 60 scores. Formerly, the number of sheep was much greater, and the management of them more carefully

studied. Were the grounds subjected to agriculture, properly enclosed, the farmers might return to the practice of keeping greater flocks, as many parts of the parish seem well adapted for sheep-fields. What species succeeds best, cannot be certainly affirmed, as no proper experiments have hitherto been made. Notwithstanding the evident and acknowledged improvements and melioration of the soil, strangers coming from the valley in which Cupar stands on the E., or from Strathearn from the W., must consider Abdie as in a state of inferior cultivation. Allowance, however, ought to be made for the untowardness of a hilly country; and they are here informed, that the farmers have little access to the quickening example and animating influence of proprietors. Of 10, the number of heritors, only 1 resides on his grounds, whose fields have of late become highly improved.

Trade in Stones.—Since the year 1788, 3 quarries have been opened on the rising ground immediately S. of the town of Newburgh, at which the rock is cut into pavement for the streets of London. From 30 to 50 quarriers and cutters are employed in this work: as the demand for the stones increases, there is reason to conclude, that the number of hands will be augmented. The stones are shipped at the shore of Newburgh, and carried to London chiefly by the vessels employed in the salmon trade. Already the returns amount to between 500l. and 600l. Sterling.

Ecclesiastical State, School, Poor, &c.—The parish is at present vacant. Earl Mansfield is patron. The church is an old narrow building, low in the walls, and poorly lighted. The manse is lately repaired, and tolerably commodious.

commodious. The stipend consists of 55½ bolls bear; 62½ oats; 20½ oat meal, and 10l. 5s. Notwithstanding its near neighbourhood to Auchtermuchty and Newburgh (see Statistical Accounts of these parishes), there are few separatists from the church of Scotland in Abdie. Perhaps observation of the ill consequences arising from the levity, inconsistency and folly of too many (in these parishes, has contributed to confirm the bulk of the people in their adherence to the Established Church, and respect for its ministers.—The schoolmaster's salary is 4l. 10d., 2 bolls bear, 2 bolls oats, a house and small garden. In summer, the number of scholars is about 30; in winter 40. They are taught reading, writing, arithmetic and Latin.—The stock for the poor is about 600l. Sterling; the result of legacies, collections at the church doors and other casualties. The necessitous are few, and sufficiently cared for and assisted.

Character.—Peaceableness of disposition, and simplicity of manners, have long been regarded as distinguishing features in the character of the inhabitants. They who know them speak warmly of their kindness and civilities, and praise their persevering industry. More detached than other parishes, in which there are large villages, or towns, from intercourse with strangers, they retain the modes of thinking and acting of their fathers: If, therefore, they have not the vivacity, neither exhibit they the artfulness of the present times.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The proximity of the port of Newburgh is favourable for the exportation, or ready sale of the grain. Cupar, Auchtermuchty, and Newburgh, are markets at hand for their cattle and

sheep. Its various lakes, and the streams issuing from them, render Abdie an eligible situation for maksters, manufacturers, bleachers. That it is well adapted for that kind of machinery that is moved by water, appears by the mills at present working in the parish: they are meal mills 5; fulling mills 2; lint mills 2. On considering these circumstances, and the vicinity of the populous towns named above, one may well be surprised that no manufacturing work of any extent has yet been established in Abdie. The situation and command of water is inviting, materials are at hand, and labourers would not be wanting.—Good is balanced here with some evil. From the unevenness of the grounds, many places are difficult of access; the roads are in bad repair; some of the marshes cannot be easily drained; the harvest on the high grounds is often late. By the industry of the inhabitants, the examples and improvements of the age, and the police of the country, many of the disadvantages that now press upon our observation, may be removed at some future period; but the hills, and coldness, and difficulty of access to many places, must remain. And from the present state of property, there is little reason to expect, that the gentlemen, in whose hands it is placed, will soon restore, and return to the seats of their predecessors, to spread a portion of their wealth over the barrenness of the mountains, and to gladden the vallies with their presence.

N U M B E R IX.

PARISH OF FIRTH AND STENNESS.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ORKNEY, PRESBYTERY OF
CAIRSTON.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN MALCOLM.

Extent, Surface, Sea-Coast, Kelp, &c.

THESE united parishes are situated in the * mainland of Orkney, having Kirkwall on the E., Orphir on the S, Stromness and Sandwich on the W., Harra and Rendal on the N. The extreme length is about 9 miles; the breadth various. The face of the parishes, in general, is not very agreeable, owing to the many moors and hilly ridges covered with heath and peat moss to the summit. Some particular places, however, of both parishes, are pretty agreeable, particularly about the Kirk of Stennes, and other places along the loch of that name. The whole extent of coast, in both parishes, including the small

* By geographers named Pomona.

small islands of Damsay, and the Holm of Grimbister in the bay of Firth, is about 10 miles. The shores are low and flat, which facilitates the labour, and lessens the expense of making kelp. The tangle, or sea-weed, is cut in some places every other year, but more generally every third year, for that purpose : there being no tide-way about these shores, the sea-weed grows more slowly than in many other places. The quantity of kelp made annually, is, at an average, about 80 tons ; the expense of making it, about 11. 6s. the ton, (reckoning 24 cwt. to the ton). Where the shores are deeper, and the labour greater, the expense is proportionably so.

Soil, Mode of Husbandry, Size of Farms, &c.—The soil is various, in most places shallow, upon a tilly bottom, or on rotten rock. In the inland part of those parishes, the soil is pretty deep, and rather of a mossy nature. The best land is near the sea on flat points, where the soil is loamy. Oats and bear, both of a poor quality, are the only species of grain raised. The arable land is always in tillage ; under the alternate crops of these, or where manure can be got in greater quantity, the rotation is two crops of bear and one of oats. With 2 or 3 exceptions, the side plough only, with one slit, is used. In a rich tender soil, it answers extremely well for giving the last ploughing for the bear crop ; but where the ground is strong or stony, it seems very improper, especially in oatland. The returns, in middling soil, and ordinary seasons, are supposed to be 3 of oats, and between 4 and 5 of bear. In general, the oat crop turns to poor account. In a favourable season, the bear crop is better than might be expected, from the state of husbandry above described. Potatoes are raised by each family

family for its own consumption. They are generally set after the plough, but hand-hoed. The little time that can be spared from other work, causes a smaller quantity to be cultivated than would be, were horse-hoeing understood.

There being no limestone here, or in the vicinity, and very little sea-ware got for manure, and even that of the worst kind; the common manure is the dung of the cattle, mixed with ashes and dry feal in the byres, which is carried to the dunghill, and laid in alternate rows with mossy turf. To increase the quantity of ashes, turf pared from the moors, where there is some mixture of peat moss with grit or clay, is burnt for fuel in the houses, with a few peats. * Marl of different kinds is found in both parishes, but little of it used for manure, owing to the difficulty of taking it up in rainy seasons, and perhaps still more so to the little time many of the people can spare from working, and leading their masters peats, and partly to their ignorance of its value as a manure. Very few of the farms exceed 12 or 13 acres of arable land. A farm of 16 or 18 acres is considered as a great one; and many of them are from 8 to 5. The rents vary considerably, according to the quality of the land, the opportunity of rearing cattle, making butter, and other local circumstances. In 2 or 3 instances, the rent is nearly 20s. the acre; but, in general, even good land does not exceed 10s. or 12s., and in many places is far below that rent †.

Labouring

* In digging up marl in Stenness, stags horns and bones are sometimes found. An instance of this occurred last summer, and another about 4 years ago.

† *Wages, Prices, &c.*—A man servant's wages, in money and perquisites, are about 3l. a year; a servant girl's about 1l. with a farmer. For 7 years past, oat-meal has sold from 1s. 3d. to 2s. the stone; malt and bear-

Labouring Cattle, Sheep, &c.—Horses only are used for the plough. These differ in size and value with the size of the farms, and the circumstances of the farmers. The highest priced sell, at present, from 8l. to 9l.; the smaller from 3l. 10s. to 4l. 10s., when young. A great proportion of the horses is brought from Strathnaver, when rising 2 years old, and sold at high prices. Many of the best are again sold when 4 or 5 years old, to the Caithness people, at the Lammis market. Most of the farmers in Stenness, and a few in Firth, keep each a cart ox for carrying out the manure. These oxen sell from 2l. 10s. to 3l. Sheep are far from being numerous, and probably not a tenth part of what they were 30 years ago; nor a twentieth of what, with proper care and management, might be kept in the extensive ranges of hills dividing these from the neighbouring parishes. Considering the present management, it is only surprising, that the breed is not utterly exterminated. They are never herded, and seldom looked after, except for shearing, for marking the lambs, or for the butcher, when they are hunted down by dogs, and often sadly torn. In the winter season, many of them are carried off by the sea, or high tides, from the skerries, to which they resort to feed on sea-weed. The ewes very frequently produce twins, but a great proportion of the lambs is devoured by dogs, ravens and eagles. After the bear feed is laid down,

bar-meal from 11s. to 16s. the meil, (21½ stone); cows from 1l. 10s. to 2l. 10s.; sheep from 4s. to 5s.; swine from 5s. to 6s.; geese 1s.; hens 4d.; butter from 5d. to 6d. the mark, (1½d. lb. English); eggs 1½d. the dozen; hay and straw from 6d. to 8d. the horse load; potatoes 3s. the meil. The vicinity of Kirkwall and Stenness gives a ready market for every article the farmers have to dispose of. At the latter place, those in the neighbourhood often get far higher prices than the above, when there is much shipping in its harbour.

down, the sheep are driven from the shores to the hills; the hill-dikes (as they are called), are slightly repaired; but these earthen fences are seldom fit to keep out horses and cattle, and far less these wild sheep. Every person is, by consequence, obliged to set the dogs on them when they approach his farm: And as, perhaps, more than 5 out of 6 of the farmers have no sheep of their own, it may be easily imagined, that the dogs are often allowed to tear them to pieces.

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755, was 1108. The number of souls in both parishes, at the beginning of the year 1793, was as under:

Number of souls,	1186	20 to 30	-	185	
Males,	-	580	30 to 40	-	170
Females,	-	606	40 to 50,	-	116
Under 10	-	369	50 to 60,	-	79
10 to 20,	-	212	Above 60	-	55

Manners and Condition of the People.—The people, in general, are industrious, when not depressed by poverty, and overburdened with services. Few of them can be called rich; but a very considerable proportion of them are tolerably comfortable in their circumstances. With so small farms, such as have numerous families must be poor. When the crop fails, or turns out but indifferently, several of them are greatly straitened. Of 5 instances, where twin children have been born within these 7 years, 3 of them were among the very poorest people, and who required parochial collections to assist them in getting them nursed. In the winter season, the present circumstances

of the country afford the people here less opportunity for exerting their industry than could be wished, for their good, in every respect. In respect of morals, the people are pretty much on a level with their neighbours. As to religion, they are all of the Established Church, and happily ignorant of the controversies on speculative points, and of the peculiar tenets of the several sects, whose zeal for their own credenda, have occasioned so much unchristian animosity in other countries. Some years ago, several very decent people of the Quakers came to this country, and the parishioners here attended them with pleasure, as they asked nothing from them. But afterward, coming to the knowledge, that the Quakers observe not the sacraments, they were greatly amazed, and anxious to know if they were Christians*.

The Poor.—There are, at present, very few begging poor in these parishes, several of them having died lately. There is no fund for their support, except the collections at church, and these are exceedingly trifling. Those whose circumstances permit it, are charitable, not only to the begging poor, but to families in distressed circumstances, and especially to such as are confined by sickness.

Disadvantages and Hindrances to Improvements.—These are owing partly to peculiar local circumstances, and partly to the habits of the people. It would naturally occur to a person, not thoroughly acquainted with facts

* The parishioners assembled at the kirk of Firth to hear the Quakers; who, not beginning their worship or exhortations immediately, were entertained by an old man to make haste, if they were to say any thing, as the day was short, and several of the people had far to return home.

facts and circumstances, to ascribe them to the smallness of the farms, and to the short leases usually granted by the landlords. This, however, would be a rash, perhaps an erroneous decision. The want of stock at setting up a farm, or being obliged to sell off cattle for payment of rent, disqualifies a man from doing justice to his land; and one with 5 or 6 acres of land, has frequently a better corn-yard than another in the same field with 8 or 9 acres. That the longest leases in the present circumstances of the country, would be of little consequence, with regard to improvements, may be admitted, in a place where proprietors of farms, and which have been in their families for several generations, observe the same mode of husbandry, and are neither better lodged, clothed, and fed, than the tenants in the neighbourhood. Their feuduties, to be sure, are heavy. Their farms, perhaps, have been feued at the actual rent, when the feus were granted. But the rents of neighbouring farms have, in some instances, been doubled; and yet the tenants live as well as the generality of these petty proprietors. Good grass is much wanted. All the cattle, except the milch-cows, are turned out to the hills and moors, where they make a shift to preserve life, but are stinted in their growth; and the queys are often 5 or 6 years old before they have a calf. But there can be no grass sown where there are neither enclosures nor proper herding; and to leave land out of tillage, which has been in constant tillage for ages, produces only weeds. Besides the numbers of small swine that run at large from the time the corns are taken in till the bear-seed for the ensuing crop be sown, root up every grass that might grow.

Ploughing after harvest is very unusual. Small as the farms are, this occasions a throng of work in the spring.

Should any man be 8 or 10 days behind his neighbours, he will have woe enough in harvest. How soon the oats are cut down, they are hurried into the yard. All the cattle are left to their liberty; and he whose corns are unripe, must cut them down, or expect to have them destroyed. By the middle of October, hunger and cold force home the half starved cattle from the hills; the hill-dikes are too weak to keep them out; and it is equally impracticable to point these invaders, as to prevent their incursions. They must be hunted with dogs to the mountains, perhaps after a dozen of them have run through fields of standing corn. The hopes of any improvement, or better management, are very remote. The great number of heritors concerned in one piece of land, will be found a great bar to improvements whenever they shall be attempted. In one town of land, as it is called, consisting of about 60 acres, and with 8 farm-houses, besides cottagers houses, 11 heritors have an interest. A very few farmers derive some considerable profit, by selling peats to the towns of Kirkwall and Stromness: Others are obliged to spend most of the summer in cutting, winnowing, and leading peats to their landlords. But even those who are not bound to such services, and who are not advantageously situated for profiting by this article, often spend the best part of the summer, about what fetches them a small trifle of money; when, in all probability, the same time employed in digging and leading marl for their land would give them vastly more profit, though not so immediate. But the farm is neglected for a cow's hide, and a few shillings, or a few stone weight of meal, to help to maintain them while employed in the peat mofs. The principal heritor in Stenness does not reside in the country. His tenants

pay

pay a money rent, and either the peats they were in the use of putting into their master's hands, or the price of them, at their own option. They complain of the hindrance to their farming, and the injury to their horses in poor pasture, and bad roads, in case of rainy weather ; and yet they choose to pay the peats. Some of the people in Firth declare they make no profit by this article, and yet go on in the usual way, lest their neighbours should account them thriftless.

Many of the young people of each sex, with cottagers, tailors and shoemakers, who are unemployed in summer in their handicrafts, are all employed in kelp-making. It is scarcely possible for a farmer to keep a man servant, or even a boy, without allowing him a month or two of the summer to go to the kelp ; at which work, in a dry season, they make far better wages than the farmers can afford.

Nothing, however, contributes so much to the hurt of this place, as the resort of the Hudson's Bay Company's ships to Stromness, and their engaging lads from this country. A few lads returning with some money, make excellent recruits for the Company's service ; and the report of a war makes great numbers solicit to go out to their settlements. The farmers servants and sons leave them, to spend the prime of life in cold and drudgery in the N. W. ; from whence such of them as are not incapacitated by diseases contracted there, return to be farmers, their skill in that line not improved by their absence, and their habits frequently not calculated to make them successful. Young men, who have learned any of the trades needed there, have good wages, and often come home with considerable sums of money. But even they generally set up for farmers on their return ; and in a few years, are commonly

commonly reduced to mean circumstances. Young lads, however, who have married before they have any stock, or can get small farms (as often happens), by going into the Company's service, are able to remit a trifle to their families; and when a man and his wife cannot live in peace together, the parties and the parish are relieved from such disquiets, by the husband's retreat to the Hudson's Bay settlements*.

Curiosities and Antiquities.—In the parish of Stenness are several large erect stones, some standing single, and others in considerable number, and regular figures. The greatest number is in a circular form, surrounded with a pretty wide and deep ditch, of considerable circumference. Many of the stones there are broken and fallen down: Their size is not large. The largest stand between the kirk of Stenness and a causeway over a narrow and shallow place of the loch of Stenness. Four of these form a segment of a circle; and it is probable there has been a complete semicircle, as some stones broken down seem to have stood in the same line. The highest of those now standing is about 18 feet above the level of the ground. At a little distance from these, is a stone with a hole of an oval form in it, large enough to admit a man's head

* The want of flax is also a great disadvantage to this place. Were it cultivated, and the sheep properly taken care of, there cannot be a doubt, but the circumstances of the people would be greatly meliorated. At present, both wool and flax must be bought at very high prices. A lint-mill would be very useful, and a great encouragement to the raising of flax, were any considerable proprietor to encourage the cultivation of this useful article. But much good might be done by persuading a few of the most sensible farmers to sow some flax-seed. The trifling expense of purchasing a little seed, and a hand brake, would operate as a premium. By this practice, another advantage might be expected, viz. additional work for the winter season, which would be for the benefit of the morals, as well as the interest of the people.

head; from which hole to the outside of the stone, on one side, it is slender, and has the appearance of being worn with a chain.

Clofe by the above mentioned circle of stones, are several tumuli, evidently artificial, some of them raised pretty high, of a conical form, and somewhat hollow upon the top. About half a mile from the femicircular range of stones, is another beautiful tumulus, considerably larger than the former, around which has been a large ditch. This last is distinguished by the name of *Mefow*, or * *Mefe-how*.

Guthrie mentions some Roman fibulæ to have been found in Stennefs.

Memorable Events.—In the neighbourhood of Gar-miston, in the parish of Stennefs, in the side of a peat-mofs, are several heaps of earth, said to be the graves of those who fell in a skirmish, at what is called the Battle of Summerfdale, or Bigswell. The following is reported to have been the occasion of this action. Upon the 18th of May 1529, in the reign of James V. John Earl of Caithness, pretending some right to Orkney, came over with troops to feize it, landed at Howton, and proceeded to Summerfdale in Stennefs, where they were beat back by the Orkney and Shetland people into a place called the Mofs of Bigswald, where the Earl and most of the people were killed, and the rest taken prisoners. Numbers of their bones, and part of their clothing have been dug up, which was black when first got, but soon fell in-

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* In this country, *how* is of the same import with *knoll*, or *know*, in other parts of Scotland, and is applied to elevated hillocks, whether artificial or natural.

to dust. The Orkney men were commanded by a Sir James Sinclair, natural son to Robert Earl of Orkney †.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are 4 tryfts in the year for horses and cattle, to the great convenience of this

† It is said, that the Earl of Caithness and Lord Sinclair were killed at that skirmish; and that a stone is yet to be seen, upon a green spot in Garmiston, near Bigswald, which was placed over the grave either of the one or of the other. Wallace, in his account of the Orkneys, says, “The Earl of Caithness and the Lord Sinclair, came with a great army by sea, into Orkney, to have taken possession of it, as of a country to which they pretended some right; but the people of the country, under the command of Sir James Sinclair (natural son to Robert Sinclair, the last Earl of Orkney of that surname), encountered the Earl with such courage, at a place called Summerdale, that his whole army was wholly discomfited; the Earl himself, with 500 of his men being killed; and the Lord Sinclair, with all the rest, taken prisoners.” Wallace adds, “poor Sinclair their leader, drowned himself afterwards.”

The following respite, in favour of Edward Sinclair, and others, for the slaughter of the Earl of Caithness, found in a gentleman's papers in Shetland, is a sufficient proof of this fact.

James, be the grace of God, King of Scottis, &c. Wit ze we of oure Ipec'ale grace, to have respitt, supersedit and delayit, and be yir or. letteris in ye law, and be ye law spe'alie respittis, supercedis, and delays Edward Sinclair of Strome, Magnus Sinclair of Werfetter, Johnni Sinclair of Tollap, William Sinclair of Houfe, Olive Sinclair of Helura, and generally all and sundry uyeris personinis kynensmen, freyndis, assista-
ris, adherentis, partakouris and complices wt ye said Edward, and persones above written, dwelland wt in ye yles of Orkney and Zetland, being wt yame in company at ye comitting of any crymes, and art and part with yame yr intill in any tyme bygane befor ye day of ye dait of yir prth, fort art and part of ye convocation and gadering of our leigea, in arrayit battle agains umqll Johnni Erle of Caithness, and for art and part of ye slauchter of the said Erle, and his freyndis, , and partakours being wt yame in company at ye tyme, and for all uyeris slauchteris, mutilatiouns, oppressiouns, reiffis, for thot fellonies, tressonis, crymes, transgressiouns and offenis quhatsumever comittit and done be yame or any of yame, or in any uyer part, or place wtin or realm, in any times
bygane

this side of the country, held in the parish of Firth. There is likewise a slate quarry, but not much wrought at present, and excellent flag, very serviceable to these, and part of the neighbouring parishes, for roofing their houses. They are laid on loose, covered with a little thatch, and the whole kept tight by heath ropes. A road from Kirkwall to Stromness, runs through these parishes; which, though repaired every other summer, where most needful, is, notwithstanding, very bad in winter. There are two burns crossing this road, which stand greatly in need of bridges: The other burns crossing it have bridges of strong planks of wood, properly fixed together. There is a bridge at the strait, which joins the loch of Stenness with the sea, of large and strong logs of wood laid across the openings between the stone pillars. It has never been properly finished; and, having no railing at the sides, young children and weakly people run no small risk of being blown over, and drowned. For 2 miles above this bridge, to a strait where there is a causeway, the loch is brackish. It extends up the country nearly 5 miles farther, is of considerable, though various breadth and depth, and abounds with trout and eel. Swans frequent this loch, and the Bay of Firth, in the winter season. In this bay, excellent oysters, and of a large size, are found in tolerable plenty; they are sold at 1s. the hundred. Owing to the distance from the open sea, and the avoca-

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tions

bygone before y^e day of y^e dait hereof. Tresoun in o^r own proper persone allensarlie, exceptit for y^e space of nyntine yeris next to cum, efter y^e day of y^e dait of yir pr^{ts}, to indure but ony revocation, obstacle, impediment, or again calling quhatsoever, &c.

Marked thus on the back.—One nyntene yeris respitt to Edward Sinner, and his accomplices, for y^e slaughter of y^e Erie of Cathness, &c.

tions of the people, unavoidable in the summer months, scarcely any fish are caught. In the month of November, some fillocks, or young cple fish, are got; and this is all the benefit, in the fishing way, derived from our situation on the sea coast.

Rent, Stipend, &c.—It is difficult, on account of the numerous services, to ascertain the real rent with accuracy. It may be between 500l. and 600l. Sterling.—The manse is about 50 years old, and has lately been repaired. The stipend is worth about 60l. at an average, exclusive of the glebes.

NUMBER

N U M B E R X.

P A R I S H O F K I L N I N I A N.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ARGYLL, PRESBYTERY AND
ISLAND OF MULL.)

By the Rev. Mr. ARCHIBALD M'ARTHUR.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THIS parish, though of large extent, does not furnish much matter for a statistical account. It seems to have got its name from some reputed saint, called Ninian, of whom there is now no tradition remaining in the place. The form is a broad peninsula, lying N. W. from the isthmus, where the large island of Mull is almost cut into 2 nearly equal parts, by a deep bay from the Atlantic, called Lochnankell, or Lochnangaul, which penetrates into the country so far, as to be scarce 3 miles distant from the E. coast of the island at Aros Bay, on the Sound of Mull. In the mouth of Lochnankell lie the Islands of Ulva, Gometra, Little Colonsay and Staffa, all of which

are inhabited, and belong to this parish, together with a cluster of small uninhabited islands, called the Isles of Treif-nish. Exclusive of all these islands, excepting Ulva and Gometra, this parish is computed to be 12 miles long, and 12 miles broad, surrounded on all sides by the sea, excepting at the isthmus already mentioned, which, together with Lochnankell, divides this from the parishes of Torafay and Kilfinichin on the S. To the W. of Kilninian are the islands Tiree and Coll; the former at the distance of about 6 or 7 leagues, the latter about 3 leagues from land to land. At a much greater distance to the N. are seen the isles of Canna, Rum, Egg and Muck; and nearer hand, is the point, or head land of Ardnamurchan, being the W. extremity of the main land of Scotland. To the E. the Sound of Mull divides this parish from that of Morven. In the county cess-book, the valued extent of the parish of Kilninian amounts to 138 merks land, of which only 65 have been surveyed, and found equal to 25,644 acres: So that the whole parish cannot be much below 55,000 acres of ground.

Surface, Soil, and Agriculture.—The general appearance of the land is hilly, and these hills are, for the most part, covered with heath; but there are no mountains of remarkable height. What is called arable land, lies, for the most part, near the shore. The more inland parts are tolerable good pasture, intermixed with a large proportion of moss and barren heath. The soil, in general, is but barren, being a light reddish earth, or a mixture of moss, with little depth, and much under water. The spots which deserve a more favourable description, are in proportion, few and small. The state of agriculture is very backward, owing chiefly to the rugged face of the ground, and forbidding nature of the climate. Very few
carts,

carts, or even sledges, are used. Some gentlemen have begun to use the two-horse plough, but hitherto rarely without a goad's man. The common crop is a very inferior kind of oats, which the inhabitants call small oats. They begin sowing them about the 20th of March; and it is the beginning of October, and sometimes later, before they are ripe. The common return is 3 seeds; of which 2 bolls go to make one of meal. Barley is sown about the end of April, and is ripe about the middle or end of August. It returns from 6 to 10 seeds; and when sown in old ground, manured with sea-ware, and laboured with the spade, it produces sometimes 16 fold. Potatoes are, for the most part, planted in beds by the spade, and make the chief subsistence of the poorer sort, for 3 quarters, or 10 months of the year. The returns are various, according to the manure and labour expended on them; but that they are far short of the returns from this root, in other parts of Scotland, is evident from this circumstance, that some families, in this country, find it necessary to plant from 30 to 40 barrels of them yearly, for their own consumption. Till the late act, obliging distillers of spirits to take out a license, the manufacturing of barley into whisky, was by much too common a practice in this country; but the number of stills have, since that period, been greatly diminished, much to the advantage of the country, and, it is thought, without any loss to the revenue.

Climate, &c.—The climate of this island is very rainy; and, according to the general persuasion, it has become much more so of late years, than formerly. Severe gales of wind, from the W. and N. W. are frequent. Our winters are, for the most part, much more temperate and mild,

mild than in the inland parts of Scotland. The ground is seldom wholly covered with snow; nor are the frosts of any long continuance; but our summers are often to be complained of, as too rainy and cold, and of short continuance. Yet the climate, upon the whole, is not unfavourable to health; many persons live to the age of between 80 and 90, and a few have exceeded 90 years who died in the present incumbent's time. The most common distempers are, colds, rheumatisms, and a pain in the breast, or pit of the stomach; all of which may, perhaps, be attributed to the poverty of diet and clothing, not less than to the moistness of the climate, as the richer sort are less frequently troubled with such complaints than the poor. The last is so common, as to have obtained, in their language, the name of the part affected, viz. beul a mhaothain.

Roads and Bridges, &c.—The roads through this parish are, in many parts, very bad, and the improvement of them proceeds but slowly. This may be partly the fault of proprietors, who pay much less attention to the making of proper roads, than the importance of such improvement deserves. But the frequency of hills, great or small, as also of rocks or mosses, which occur on most of the lines of roads in this country, is the principal obstruction. The fund allowed, and the money collected for roads and bridges, is so disproportionate to the extent and surface, and to the expense requisite for overcoming these natural impediments, that it will take many, many years, before they can be brought to any tolerable perfection. At present, there is but one bridge in the whole parish, though there are many torrents intersecting the roads, which a few hours of heavy rain will render impassable, till the sky clears again. Another bridge is
now

now begun to be built at Tobermory. But though we are behind many of our neighbours in bridges and roads, the people have, within these 30 years past, made considerable progress in other useful improvements, particularly in enclosing ground, and building more comfortable dwelling houses, for which there is a growing taste.

Lakes, Rivers, Coasts.—There are 5 lakes in the parish, all of them abounding with excellent trout. Our rivers are not considerable for the body of water; yet, at the mouth of 2 or 3 of them, a few fine salmon are found in the summer season. The shores are, for the most part, high and rocky; yet not without many openings and flats, in some of which are found banks of shell, crumbled into sand, which is much used for manure. In this, as in most Highland countries, the custom is, to confine cattle in folds during the summer and autumn nights; and the spots thus manured, are called Tathfields. When a tathfield is thinly strewed with this sand, in the month of July or August, it produces 4 or 5 crops of such oats as are raised here, and would give more, if followed further; but if a greater number of crops is taken, or if the sand has been laid on without a mixture of other manure, it soon impoverishes the soil. The small tenantry have sometimes, through ignorance or avarice, so run out ground, by such management, as to render it almost perfectly useless for many years thereafter. What is most remarkable in this shelly sand, is, that, for a few years after it has been laid on, daisies and white clover appear in ground where they were never known before. On the coasts of this parish, some ling, cod, skate, mackerel, flounder, lythe, seath, perch, dog-fish, &c. are found, but not in any great quantities. The herring sometimes
appear

appear at Lochnankell, but seldom make any long stay, or are caught in quantities worth sending to market. Our coast furnishes variety of shell-fish, viz. oysters, lobsters, crabs, spoutfish, clam, limpets, wilks, &c. There are also many otters, seals, porpoises, besides most of the sea-fowls that are common on the west coast of Scotland, whether natives of this climate, or birds of passage.

Harbours, Boats, and Ferries—The principal harbour is Tobermory, at which a village has lately been erected by the British Society for improving the coasts. North of Tobermory is the Bloody Bay, and S. of it the Bay of Aros. These 3 harbours are on the Sound of Mull. On the western coast of the parish are the Sound of Ulva, the Bay of Soribay, Bru, or the Bay of Glacknangallan : All these are reckoned safe anchoring ground. On the Isle of Gometra, are two harbours, one facing the S., and one the N. ; and both reckoned safe and good for coasting vessels. On the N. side of the parish, are the creeks of Laorin, Lorkmingary, Pollaach, Croig, and Bay of Calgary, which last opens toward Tiree. In the whole parish, there are not above 3 or 4 boats of a large size, which carry coastwise for freight ; but small yawls, for fishing near the shore, and other purposes of convenience, are very numerous. There have been, for some years back, sometimes 1, sometimes 2 packet-boats, which run from Greenock to the village of Tobermory, calling at the interjacent harbours : But as they are private property, and have no encouragement from the public, the time of their arrivals and departures must depend on the business that offers. Mr. M'Lean of Coll has, at his own expense, established another packet-boat, which goes regularly once a week from his estate in this parish, to the

Island of Coll, returning next day. The ferries from this to the neighbouring parishes, are 2 to Morven, 1 to Ardnamurchan, and 1 to the parish of Kilfinichen. The communication with Tiree, and other islands, is only by occasional boats or vessels.

Live Stock.—The live stock of the whole parish, as nearly as can be conjectured, without numbering them, may be about 3000 head of black cattle, of all ages; 400 horses, including mares and followers; 4500 sheep of the South Country kind, besides a considerable number of the smaller Highland kind.

Population, &c.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population, in 1755, was 2590. The total number of souls, according to a list taken last winter, amounts to 3281. Total number of baptisms, from January 1. 1792, to January 1. 1793, was 96; of which 45 were boys, and 51 girls. Total number of marriages in that period, 32: But, according to the parochial register, the annual average of baptisms is but 80, and of marriages 22*.

Post Offices, Sheriff Court.—There are 2 post offices in this parish; 1 at Aros, and 1 in Tobermory. The arrivals and departures are 3 times a-week. There is also a sheriff-substitute court, lately established at Tobermory, for the regular administration of justice. This must turn greatly to the advantage of the island at large; as,

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before.

* There is little doubt, however, that many baptisms of the parish have not been entered upon the register, both because of the act imposing a tax on entries of this kind, and because it is a practice with people, who live at a distance from the parish minister, to apply occasionally to other clergymen, for the benefit of that ordinance. There is no account kept of burials, because of the number, and great distances of the places of interment.

before this establishment, there was no magistrate, excepting justices of the peace, nor any regular court of law nearer us than the borough of Inverary, at the distance of at least 60 miles, besides ferries. This would make a poor man succumb to injuries, rather than attempt to obtain legal redress.

Rental and Heritors.—The whole valued rent of the parish is 329l. 3s. Sterling. The real gross rent, at present, is not below 3000l. The Duke of Argyll is patron, and principal heritor. His Grace has a chamberlain residing at Aros, who manages the business of his estates in the whole of Mull and Morven. There are other 5 heritors of this parish, 2 of whom reside therein, and 1 nigh it. The British Society, for improving the coasts, &c., have a property also of about 2000 acres near their village of Tobermory; but the far greater part is hill or mofs. The ground fit for tillage, lying in detached spots near the harbour, is not considerable, either for extent or quality.

Village of Tobermory.—The above society began to form this village in the year 1788; and a customhouse, and post office, were established there in the year 1791. The village now consists of 15 houses, built with stone and lime, 2 stories in height, with slated roofs, and of between 20 and 30 thatched houses, 1 story high. The population is about 300 souls. In this village are a few people, who follow the mercantile line, and serve the settlers and neighbouring districts in goods imported from the Low Country. A boat-builder also, and a cooper, have settled there, and find pretty constant employment in the building of boats, and making of barrels for the fishery: And there is a considerable store of salt kept there,

there, for supplying the bufs and boat fifhers, in the fifhing feafon. In the year 1792, there were 47 veffels and boats cleared from this cuftomhouse, for the herring-fifhery; and as they were fuccefsful laft year, there is caufe to hope, that the number will be greater this feafon. There are, of other crafts, 1 fmith, 1 wright, 2 tailors, 2 fhoe-makers, and 3 or 4 fmail inn-keepers; alfo a corn-mill with a fufficiency of water to work machinery, to a confiderable extent, in all feafons. Tobermory poffeffes the advantage of a fafe, capacious harbour, fituated in the tract of the fhipping, which pafs from the weftern parts of Britain to the northern countries of Europe; and has an eafy communication by water, with the fifhing lochs, in one direktion, and with the Frith of Clyde, Liverpool, and other confiderable towns; in the other. This, it muft be allowed, is a favourable fituation, not only for the profecution of the fifheries, but alfo for other branches of trade. Hitherto, however, no perfon of fufficient enterprife has attempted to introduce into this fettlement any kind of manufacture *.

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Tradesmen,

* One great obfturbation to attempts of this nature, was the tax upon coals carried coaftways; of the abolition of which, we have now happily a near profpect. Whatever good effect may be produced by the abolition of fo heavy and partial a tax, till the country feel the benefit of this intended relief, it could not be expected, that any confiderable manufacture would prove fuccefsful; either at Tobermory, or any where elfe, through thefe weftern ifles of Scotland, becaufe their only fuel was turf or peats, cut and prepared, even in the beft feafons, at a great expenfe of time and labour, and liable to be totally loft or ufelefs, when the fummrs prove very rainy, which is frequently the cafe, and forely felt. Befides this, the extreme barrennefs of the ground at Tobermory, and in the countries around it, muft for ever retard the progrefs of trade and manufactures in this village, unlefs the fociety, who have founded it on the moft patriotic principles, continue to cherifh it with peculiar care and liberality. With
this

Tradesmen, Poor, &c.—Exclusive of those settled at the village, there are of artificers in the parish, 3 smiths,

this view, every thing should be done to render the access by land to this place less difficult, and the condition of the inhabitants there, more easy and comfortable. As the circumstances of the country do not, at present, afford the advantages of a regular market, it is indispensably necessary, that settlers in this village, should have spots of ground allotted to them, for furnishing some of the most necessary articles of daily consumption, and these spots should be let at such moderate rates, as would be not only an inducement, but even an encouragement to persons of some substance and enterprise to settle at this place. Instead of this being the case at present, an universal complaint prevails among the inhabitants of the dearth of the rent, which the society exact for their ground there. It is not to be wondered at, that the gentlemen, who have the direction of the society's affairs, and who, perhaps, only know the Highlands from the cursory observations of a short tour made by themselves, or others, in the finest summer weather, are apt to form too favourable an opinion of the general value of land in this part of the kingdom. They have themselves, it is likely, been in the habit of seeing land let every year, at the rate of from 20s. to 40s. an acre, perhaps at much more; and it is natural for them, therefore, to think, that sufficient allowance is made for the difference of quality and situation, when the lands about Tobermory are let at about 5s. an acre. This, however, will be found a mistaken notion; and when these respectable characters shall have acquired a more intimate knowledge of the extreme meanness of the soil about Tobermory, its barrenness as to produce, and its disadvantages in regard to climate, and access to manures, as their great object is to relieve and assist the people, there is no doubt, but they would judge 5s. an acre too great a rent to be demanded in the infancy of a remote establishment, so circumstanced. In corroboration of what has been now advanced, let it be considered, that a small Highland cow cannot be kept alive upon less than 6 or 7 acres of the common run of land about Tobermory, besides a great deal of labour and expense, in finding winter provision for her. And if to this is added, the expense which her owner must be put to in enclosing his small lot of ground, not to mention that of building his house, it will appear, when every thing is laid together, that his scanty accommodation stands him dearer, in proportion to the returns he has from it, than the highest priced accommodation of settlers near large cities in Scotland or England, where trade and manufacture flourish.

smiths, 38 male and 13 female weavers, 1 wright, or joiner, 6 boat carpenters, 2 coopers, 14 tailors, 7 brogue, or shoemakers, 6 cowans, or dry stone builders, and 5 merchants. There are also 5 change, or retailing houses, 2 licenced stills, 1 fulling, or waulk-mill, and 8 corn-mills; whereof 3 are of the ancient simple construction, in which there is but 1 wheel, and it lying horizontally in the perpendicular, under the mill-stone; so that the water to turn it, must come through the house. These are called black mills. From what has been already said of the soil, agriculture, and population of this parish, it will be readily believed, that many of our people are poor; and it is but too true. The list of those who receive part of the public charity, is never under 70; and in some years, it is between 90 and 100. The only common fund they have to look to for aid, is what is collected for them at church on Sundays, together with some occasional fines exacted for immoralities. The annual amount of both of which, is from 12l. to 15l. Sterling: Therefore, such objects, as are able to travel, go from house to house for alms, and some of them beyond the limits of the parish; and in this practice, those of other parishes return the compliment. It is but justice to remark here, that 2 of the heritors, viz. Mr. Maclean of Coll, and Mr. Macdonald of Boisdale, make an annual allowance in money, to the poor in their respective estates in this parish, though not sufficient to maintain them without other charities.

Churches, Stipend, Schools, &c.—There are the ruins of 7 or 8 small edifices in this parish, which, in all probability, were chapels of worship, in times of Popery. At several of these, the precincts may still be traced; and there are vestiges of houses within the precincts, where,
according

according to tradition; those who took asylum in the consecrated ground, were lodged. At present, however, there are but two churches, or rather houses for worship; one at Kilninian, and one at Kilmore, at the distance of about 4 computed, or 6 measured miles from each other, with a hill intervening, and 2 torrents of water, not always fordable. Both these churches were built in the year 1754; and though too small for the congregations, are kept in tolerable good repair. The incumbent, whose living is 83*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Sterling in money, with a small money allowance in lieu of manse and glebe, preaches alternately in these churches, but must go, once in the quarter, to the Island of Ulva, where he preaches in the open air, for want of a church. It was also customary for him to preach twice in the quarter at Aros, distant 8 computed miles from his residence, till the committee on the Royal Bounty, about the year 1776, established a mission in Mull; by which the division of Aros, together with the outskirts of the other 2 large parishes, of which this island consists, are supplied in ordinances. This missionary has only 25*l.* Sterling of salary, without any accommodation whatever. So parsimonious is the provision made for the administration of religious ordinances, in this part of the country, that although every minister has parochial bounds assigned him, extensive enough to require the labours of 3 clergymen, yet the stipends drawn by 3, would be no more than an adequate living for 2, especially considering the personal toil and expense to which they are necessarily exposed, in the discharge of their function.—The clergy are not the only people who have cause to complain of this extreme and improvident frugality. Schoolmasters are no less affected by it. At present, there is but one parochial school

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in this extensive parish. The salary is 10*l.* Sterling, without any accommodation whatever, not so much as a house for the school or schoolmaster. The people, and some of the heritors, insist on its being ambulatory; and for the short period, it can be continued in any one place, it must be taught in any hovel that can conveniently be spared. It must be observed, however, that his Grace the Duke of Argyll has lately agreed to make such addition to the parochial salary, as to afford 10*l.* Sterling for each of 2 schoolmasters, to be stationary upon his own property, which, it is hoped, will soon be carried into effect. The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, have 2 schools on their establishment in this parish; one of which being on the Laird of Coll's property, that gentleman gives 4*l.* Sterling in addition to their salary, besides furnishing all the accommodation required by them; their other school is in the Island of Ulva, and they have promised a salary for a third school at Tobermory, as soon as a proper dwelling and school house, with other necessary accommodation, are provided for the master, to be employed there. The want of this school is no small hinderance to the progress and prosperity of that village *.

Exports

* *Prices, &c.*—For many years back, there has been a gradual rise in the price of provisions and necessaries of life, through this parish and neighbourhood. There are old men alive, who have seen the boll of meal of this country growth and measure, which weighs about 11½ stones, sold at 3*s.* or 6*s.*, now it is seldom or never under 20*s.* The meal is of a quality much inferior to what is brought from the Low Country. A wether, of the small country kind, which was formerly got at, from 3*s.* to 4*s.*, is now rarely under 7*s.*, and often exceeds that price. A cow of the smaller kind, fit for slaughter, will fetch from 5*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* The wages of a man servant a-year, from 3*l.* to 4*l.* 10*s.*, exclusive of what shoes he requires;

Exports and Imports.—The average quantity of kelp manufactured annually in this parish, is from 170 to 180 tons. The manufacturing costs about 30s. a ton, and the kelp is sold, in this country, from 3l. 10s. to 6l. the ton, according as the market rules. The only other exports worth mentioning, are black cattle, sheep and wool. The black cattle, for the most part, are sold lean at a fair, which begins in this parish on the 13th of May yearly, and is continued in the other parishes of the island, upon 3 different days thereafter, with a day always intervening.

The imports into the parish are many, particularly oatmeal, feed-corn, feed-potatoes, leather, salt, and a variety of merchant goods. The customhouse has not been long enough established to ascertain the annual average quantity of each.

General Character.—All the people of the parish are of the Established Religion, excepting 2 or 3 obscure families introduced, a few years ago, from South Uist, who are of the Popish persuasion; and since their arrival among Protestants, have got so much the better of their bigotry, that they now attend our publick meetings for worship, as often as they are held near their place of residence. The people, in general, are fond of religious instruction, sober, honest and industrious, if they had a subject to work upon. They are also humane and charitable, in proportion to their circumstances. But from this general character, there are many exceptions, as might reasonably be expected in so populous a district, and in a situation so uncultivated.

Advantages

quires; a maid servant has somewhat less than the half of these wages; a day-labourer cannot be had under 6d. a-day, and his victuals, or from 20d. to 25d. without victuals. Tradesmen are commonly paid according to the quantity of work they perform.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The parish being almost wholly furrounded by the sea, the shores are of great utility, both by furnishing sea-ware, for manure to the ground, and shell-fish at low water, particularly in the summer months, for immediate sustenance, as well as by the continual access to look for such other fish as are found upon this coast. Though carriage, by water, may be reckoned a great advantage, to which all the parts of the parish have access, yet the unimproved state of the country, and poverty of the inhabitants, prevent their reaping from it all the benefit that might be expected. This insular situation also lessens the value of their exports and live cattle. The small proportion of arable to pasture land, prevents the people from living in a collected state, in any considerable numbers; it also occasions the uniting of many smaller farms into 1 large tennement. So that, however great their attachment is to their native soil, many individuals, and some families, find it necessary to go every year for service to the Low Country; though not a few of them return again to pass the winter with their friends. As the herring busses, on their way out, frequently come to anchor in the harbour of Tebermory, the young men of the neighbourhood have the opportunity, which many of them embrace, of hiring themselves on board these vessels, for the fishing season. Others go in open boats, and bring home what herrings they can catch, or purchase, for supplying their own families: and the surplus they sell to their neighbours. The young women are often employed in cutting the kelp ware, in summer; and afterward, many of them go to the reaping of harvest, in the Low Country. It is a pity, that a people, so well disposed for supporting themselves, by honest industry, had not greater advantages for doing so, with more comfort to themselves. It

may be reckoned among the disadvantages, that some of the landlords give but very short leases, if any, to their tenants. The consequence of which is, frequent removals, frequent augmentations of rent, and frequent checks to improvements, besides the abject state of dependence, in which the tenant is held. Some of the lairds also continue the old method of exacting services from their tenants; the bad effects of which are obvious to the slightest consideration, especially when the number of these service-days is not limited. Notwithstanding of all these disadvantages, there has been no emigration to America from this parish.

Curiosities, &c.—We have but few curiosities, excepting the caves and rocks in the Island of Staffa, so accurately described in Mr. Pennant's Tour to the Hebrides, that it is needless to enlarge upon them in this place. At Aros, upon the Sound of Mull, are seen the ruins of a pretty large castle, said to have been built by Maedonald, Lord of the Isles, who lived some time there: But, at what period, or how long, I cannot ascertain*.

Language.

* It was evidently intended for a place of strength, built upon a steep rock towards the sea, and looks, as if it had been secured on the land side, by a moat and draw bridge. In several parts of the parish, are seen huge pillars of unpolished stone, without figures or letters, from 6 to 10 feet in height above ground. In many places, 1 of these is seen alone; in others, 5 or 6 of them together, particularly on the height above Kilmore, and upon an open heath, in the farm of Teany, where they are disposed into a kind of circular form. The single pillars are thought to be monuments of some persons of note, either slain, or buried there; and the erecting of them must have been a work of no small labour and ingenuity. The circular stones were, probably, places of worship, in the time of Druidism. To this day, the word Clachan, i. e. stones, is used in most parts of the Highlands.

Language.—The language commonly spoken here, is the Gaelic, though the English is daily gaining ground, and would make more rapid progress, were schools more encouraged*.

General Observations.—Upon a general review of the description now given of the present state and circumstances of this part of the country, there seems to be little ground to hope for a speedy increase of its population or prosperity, but rather the reverse, unless the evil be prevented, by some change of measures, in those who are nearly concerned in the direction, and have a special interest in the common welfare of it. Were all the heritors, for instance, to adopt, and proceed upon more liberal and publick spirited principles, by foregoing a small present profit to their families, for much greater advantages in reversion, they might gradually ef-

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lands, as a name for kirk, kirktown, or place of worship. At the western side of the parish, one of the Isles of Treilknish, called Cairnburg, was of old considered by the natives, as a place of great strength, and sometimes occupied by a small party, or garrison. It is a high rock, of some considerable extent on the top, inaccessible on all sides, excepting by one narrow pass. Little Cairnburg is a smaller rock near it, and separate from it by a narrow sound, to which the same description applies, in every other respect. These rocks are said to have been the boundary of the 2 governments, into which the Hebrides were divided, when subject to the crown of Denmark, called the Nodorees and Sodorees, or Northern and Southern Isles: And if tradition says truth, they sometimes contended for the possession of this same sort of Cairnburgh, or Cairnbulg.

* Most names of places are evidently of Gaelic derivation, as "Tobermory," the Virgin Mary's Well; "Calve," an Island without the Bason, and which covers one side of it, signifies in Gaelic, Harbour side; "Ulva," an Island separate from Mull by a narrow sound, signifies, Ready Ford, or Pass. So "Torloisk," is Burnt Hill, and "Aros" the Mansion, or Habitation, applicable to the residence of any family of distinction.

fect a great and happy change, upon their respective estates. Were every species of feudal servitude entirely abolished, and the lands let rather below than above their intrinsic value, and upon much longer leases than is now the practice, and the tenants encouraged to raise green crops, viz. potatoes, turnips, sown grass, &c., and the heritors to be at some expense in diffusing among their people a spirit of virtuous industry, and useful knowledge, particularly by rewarding the most worthy with longer leases, or otherwise, and by erecting and cherishing a greater number of schools, the face of the country, in general, would soon assume a different appearance; because, in proportion as the people became more enlightened and virtuous, and less afraid of extreme indigence, they would become more enterprising, in venturing upon new improvements. Wealth and population would increase, the village would grow to a flourishing state, and the benefit of it would extend more and more to the whole neighbourhood; and, in fine, this island and parish, which are already no contemptible nursery of useful hands to the kingdom at large, would become much more so.

N U M B E R X I.

PARISHES OF KILLBRANDON AND KILL-
CHATTAN.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ARGYLL, PRESBYTERY OF
LORN.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN MACFARLANE.

Situation, Extent, Soil, Surface, &c.

THESE parishes are bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the W., and by the Sound of Mull on the N. They consist of 5 farms on the main land, and 5 islands, viz. Luing, Seil, Shuna, Forfa, and Isle of Easdale. The names of these islands, like many of the Hebrides, are supposed to be Danish, and particularly those that end with the letter *a*; likewise all names of places that terminate with *ish* are of the same origin, as Craignish, Deignish, Ardtornish. The length of these parishes, from N. to S., is about 10, and breadth 6 English miles, including the narrow sounds that intersect them. The soil and surface vary according to the nature

ture of the rock and stone with which the surface abounds. Part of it is black, and part red hazel loam. The black is by far the most fertile, and generally covers either slate or lime-stone. The red loam is commonly mixed with whinstone, and though in good heart, is easily exhausted. There is a third kind of soil which forms the greatest part of the arable of these islands; this, though not so solid as the black loam, nor so porous as the red, is not much inferior in fertility to either. This soil appears to be a mixture of pulverized slate and lime-stone, which, in quality and colour, resembles dark clay, that hardens or relaxes in the same manner, with a few days drought or rain. It produces good crops of oats and barley; but not so well adapted for potatoes, unless in drill, that the ground may be kept loose and open by frequent ploughing.

Produce.—Oats, barley, potatoes, and a little flax, are the only crops raised in those parishes. But, from experiments lately made by Captain Campbell of Lochend, steward to the Earl of Breadalbane in this country, it appears that turnip would prove a beneficial crop; and we have reason to believe, if the ground were properly enclosed, that pease and beans, if not wheat, might be raised to advantage. Clover and rye-grass thrive remarkably well. Red and white clover are natives of these islands, and turn very rich and luxuriant in consequence of lime or shell sand. Green crops are more adapted to this climate than white, because of the heavy falls of rain in July and August. Oats and barley, if the ground be properly manured, are then very luxuriant and promising; but as they lodge early, they never prove so fertile as in other places where rain is less prevalent

prevalent during these months. The steward has taken particular care to introduce the best kinds of oats; the early, Blainly, and Cowpar-grange. But of the most fertile of those, which is the Blainly, it requires 5 fir-lots, Linlithgow measure, to make 8 stone of meal. The return of oats, in general, is from 3 to 4 seeds; barley 5, and potatoes 8, when dibbled, but in drill 16. When the soil is properly manured, the return in oats and barley is considerably better; and therefore the tenants upon Lord Breadalbane's property, are lately restricted to labour only a certain proportion of their arable; that is, 2 fields, instead of 3 formerly ploughed; which they must soon find to be their interest, as it greatly diminishes their labour, and increases the return.

Manure.—The arable is divided into infield and outfield, or wintertown. Outfields are manured by teathing, or confining their cattle in fold during summer and part of harvest. Infields are manured with byre-dung, and frequently with a compost of dung, moss, and earth, collected in the warm months. There is abundance of lime-stone in the parish, though not much used as manure. Tolerable good shell sand may be found almost in every creek upon the shore; and, of the best quality, can easily be obtained from Colonsa, Mull, or Arasaig, at the rate of 4s. or 5s. a ton. Fallowing is a mode of improvement scarcely known in this country; nor is it adapted to the climate, for the frequent falls of rain would rather impoverish than enrich the soil.

Climate and Diseases.—The wind blows here, at least two-thirds of the year, from the S. and W. It constantly

stantly conveys fog and vapour from the Atlantic, which make the air generally moist, damp, and penetrating, but seldom proves fatal to the inhabitants, except a few children carried off by the croup in cold rainy seasons. The rheumatism is the most prevalent disorder in this country. It is supposed to be more frequent since linen shirts have become the substitute of flannel or plaiding, which was once the general clothing over the Highlands of Scotland. It is evident that this opinion is not groundless, as flannel shirts, in most cases, are the safest and most effectual remedy, as well as the best antidote for this prevalent disease. Dropsies are likewise observed of late to be more frequent, particularly since potatoes have become the principal food of the lower classes of the people. And certainly, though this useful and wholesome root contains no hurtful quality, yet change of diet must gradually affect and change the constitution. While many, therefore, whose food was more solid in their early period of life, and to whom this root was scarcely known, but now live by this three-fourths of the year, no wonder though disorders should prevail which were formerly less common. But the danger, if there is any, I apprehend, proceeds from the dressing and imprudent management; rather than from the quality; as the common productions of nature, evidently intended for food, are always the most wholesome, as well as the most useful. Another disorder, commonly called the locked jaw, is very fatal to infants. It generally attacks before the 8th day after birth: if they escape till the 15th day, they are thought out of danger. This disease is scarcely known in other countries on the main land. But it is a fact, that one-third, at least, of all the children, particularly among the quarriers, die
within

within the time specified. It is supposed, that this loss is owing to ignorant midwives. And it must be confessed, that this complaint seldom appears where a bred midwife attends. Agues are not known here, and fevers seldom appear. When they do, they prevail in Luing Island; the S. end of the parish, more than in any other part of it. No sufficient reason can be assigned for this, unless that vessels; which are frequently obliged to anchor there, from every part of Britain, Ireland, and the Baltic, may be the cause of conveying the infection. The ravages of the small pox have abated, since the majority of children are now inoculated with success; though some still retain violent prejudices against this happy discovery. Cancers likewise sometimes appear: Consumptions seldom. Those are the most common diseases, but the people in general are robust and healthy. Many instances of longevity might be produced, as some are living, and severals have died lately, from 80 to 100 years old.

Slate Quarries.—The Easdale slate quarries are well known over the most of Britain. They are within a few minutes sailing to every vessel that passes through the Sound of Mull, round the western coast of Scotland, whether bound for the Baltic, Ireland, Leith; or London. These quarries are not confined to the Island of Easdale only; Luing and Seil abound with slates of the same quality, and safe anchoring ground contiguous almost to every quarry, where vessels of any burthen may safely ride. The quarry price of slates is 25s. each 1000. The manufacturing of slates at Easdale commenced near a century ago. For many years, the numbers of men employed were but few, as there was no great demand;

nor had the undertakers sufficient ability to carry on the work to any great extent. But the Easdale slate company, who now manage the quarries, having obtained a long lease, not only of the slate, but likewise of the marble quarry at Ardmady in this parish, commenced the work upon a larger scale. The marble quarry has been discontinued, though some think it might be still wrought to advantage. The slate quarries were more than sufficient, however, to employ all the hands that were engaged in the marble, the demand for slates being greater than can well be supplied, particularly since the late war with America. The quarriers are of late increased to about 300 men: All these, except a few, have families. Some of them are called quarriers, others day-labourers or feuars. The quarriers are paid for the quantity of slates which they manufacture, annually; some of them 1 s. or 12s., and others 15s. a 1000, in proportion to the difficulty or facility of working, and the expense that attends it. The day-labourers or feuars have 9d. or 10d. a-day through the year; and are employed, at the company's expense, in opening quarries and removing the rubbish. From the company's books, it appears, that about 5,000,000 of slates are quarried annually. These may be manufactured, of any dimension, from flags of 3 or 4 feet square, to the smallest size, if the quality of the quarry is good. The workmens wages amounted last year to near 4000l. Sterling. They seem to live very comfortably; many of them can easily save money; and though they should be in debt to the company, they are indulgent enough to allow them whatever is necessary for supporting their families. The company keep always a store of the articles most necessary for them, particularly meal, iron, coal,

coal, steel, and powder. Their consumption of meal cannot be under 2000 bolls a-year, all imported, as the neighbouring farmers can do no more than supply themselves*.

Rental.—The rent of these parishes, exclusive of the quarries, is about 1600*l.* Sterling. More than two-thirds of the parish are the property of Lord Breadalbane. The extent of his property here, is above 7800 Scotch acres. The extent of other small properties, cannot be exactly ascertained, as they have not been surveyed; but, I imagine, they do not exceed 3700 Scotch acres. The whole, therefore, is about 11,500. The proprietors are 5; 3 of whom reside †.

Services.—Services are still, in some measure, exacted.

X 2

Upon

* The greatest complaint among them is the dearth and scarcity of fuel. This they must purchase from the neighbouring farmers; but, in rainy seasons, peats, which are the common fuel, cannot be saved nor procured in sufficient quantity, to keep them comfortable through the winter. The duty on coal was a general complaint, nor can the removal of it effectually relieve the needy in this remote corner, where peat and turf are scarce. In procuring these, not only the poor and tradesman, but the farmer, is obliged to waste the summer season, which should be allotted to their various occupations, and improvement in agriculture. Happily, however, the general ground of complaint is removed; and if it should be still necessary to continue this duty, why not impose it at the pit? This would be more equitable than subjecting those who, by their situation, are always subjected to the additional expense of freight and insurance.

† *Wages, and Price of Labour, &c.*—Servant men from 5*l.* to 6*l.* a-year, with shoes; women from 2*l.* to 3*l.*; day-labourers 1*s.* a-day; wrights 1*s.* a-day, with victuals; tailors 8*d.* a-day; and masons 1*s.* 8*d.* a-day. The price of provision cannot easily be ascertained, where there is no regular market. Every one, according to his ability, is obliged to purchase from his neighbour who can spare, and that sometimes below, but frequently above, the real value.

Upon Lord Breadalbane's estate, there is little reason of complaint, as bonnage, arrage and carriage, are mostly abolished, except some assistance to his Lordship's factor or steward, in time of peats and hay. But the tenants of some small proprietors, complain grievously of being obliged to serve their landlords, without any abatement of rent, when most necessary, to manage their own work of the same kind. And there is little prospect of relief, as landlords think it too heavy a burden to engage the number of servants requisite to carry on their work*.

Kelp.—In these parishes, about 30 ton of kelp used to be manufactured annually. Lord Breadalbane's tenants are allowed to use it as manure, or convert it into kelp, as they choose. In this they are directed by the price, whether high or low.

Lakes, &c.—In these islands, there is plenty of spring water, but no lakes, except a few that turn some corn-mills. Two of those, though small, abound with fine trout. There is no river in this parish worthy of notice. Public roads are daily improving. Statute labour is commuted. There are only 2 or 3 vessels at sea from this

* There is another custom which tenants look upon as a grievance; that is, a yearly tax, or stent, to ferries, smithys, and corn-mills. Every tenant, in proportion to the extent of his farm, pays annually so much corn, meal, beef, and cheese, to the ferrymen contiguous to them. They pay, in the same manner, to the smith for plough irons, and shoeing of horses, though they should not find it their interest to plough a furrow. The most of farms are likewise thirled to a particular mill, whether contiguous to them or not. The tenant is obliged to pay mulcture to the miller, that is, every 17th peck of the produce of his farm, even though he should find it convenient to manufacture his grain at another mill, or send it to market.

this parish, and employed in coasting trade. But a much greater number of sailors, than are sufficient to man them, are constantly at sea on board of other vessels. The most of them are employed in herring fishing.

Church, Stipend, &c.—The church is in tolerable repair. It was built about 60 years ago; but now too small to contain the inhabitants, who wish to attend divine service. There is no manse upon the glebe; but Lord Breadalbane accommodates the minister with a house. The glebe, when let, paid 4l. yearly rent. As part of it has been lately improved, it may now be worth double that sum. The stipend is 53l. 6s. 8d. Sterling, without any victual, exclusive of 100 merks allowed for communion elements. The greatest part of the stipend was paid in meal and barley, till, in 1708, a process of augmentation commenced; in consequence of which, the victual was converted to money, and the stipend actually diminished, instead of being augmented; and in this manner it continues. Exclusive of vicarage in meal and money, the victual then paid to the minister, was 3 chalders of meal, 10 stone to the boll, and 12 bolls of barley, equal to 5 firlots, Linlithgow measure, to the boll. This is evident, as smiths and ferrymen are still paid at this rate; and several yet living know, that the minister's stipend consisted of the same weight and measure. Convinced of this, Lord Breadalbane voluntarily allows the present incumbent, 20 l. of augmentation yearly. But the other proprietors, who value their lands just now, equal to one-third of the parish, pay only 4l. 18s. 7d. annually to the minister.

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population

population in 1755, was 1492. In the month of March 1793, the number of inhabitants was 2060. In 1772, the number was about 1750.

Number of males, at present, -	1013	From 70 to 90, -	57
----- females, -	1047	Number of families, -	444
Under 10 years of age, 595		Widows, -	100
From 10 to 30 years of age, -	818	Widowers, -	16
----- 30 to 50, -	368	Average of marriages for 10 years past, -	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
----- 50 to 70, -	222	Average of births, do.	58 $\frac{1}{2}$

More than one-third of the inhabitants are slate quarriers.

State of the Poor.—About 50 persons receive some aid from the kirk-session yearly. All their funds for this purpose, consist of about 65*l*. of mortified money; the interest of which, together with weekly collections at church, amounts to 24*l*. or 25*l*. a-year. This small sum is evidently very inadequate to relieve them. They are allowed to beg, therefore; and the inhabitants, who are charitably disposed, assist them as their circumstances can afford.

Schools.—In this parish there are 3 public schools; a parochial one, supported by a stent of valued land, and 2 schools, supported by the Society at Edinburgh for propagating Christian Knowledge. At these 3, there are commonly about 200 boys and girls, taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and church music.

Horser,

<i>Horses. Black Cattle, &c.</i> —Horses and mares, with their followers, kept in those parishes, are about,	180
Black catt e,	2000
Milch cows included,	800
Sheep,	700
Carts,	80
Ploughs,	55
Sheep, till of late, above,	3000

But farmers, whose tenements consist chiefly of arable ground, detached and scattered, without sufficient enclosures, found it their interest to quit them, except a few, whose farms are more extensive. But, if they had sufficient enclosures, and a convenient market, Sir John Sinclair's plan of improvement, by raising turnip, and rearing sheep, would undoubtedly soon prove very beneficial to this country.

Fisheries, Sea-Fowl, &c.—Great shoals of herring are observed annually upon this coast, in the months of August and September; and always going northward. They seldom stay long, because of the rapid currents by which the islands are intersected. There is plenty of other kinds of fish, and sea-fowl, that are common upon the western coast; salmon, cod, lyth, and leth; shell-fish, as, mussel, cockle, lobster, spout-fish, and oysters; seals, and otters, are numerous. Small whales, likewise, from 20 to 24 feet long, are frequently seen. A variety of wild duck frequent this country: The most numerous of which are, the widgeon, that appear in great flocks from the end of harvest till the month of March. They are natives

tives of Norway and Sweden. They are not equal to the large Scotch duck, in size or quality*.

Minerals.—By several experiments made some years ago, by Mr. Ralp the mineralist, veins of lead and silver ore, and likewise of iron, zinc, copper, and copperas, were discovered upon Lord Breadalbane's property in this parish; but not in sufficient quantity to encourage the expense of manufacturing.

Antiquities.—There is no antiquity worthy of notice in this parish, except the ruins of 2 or 3 buildings, supposed to have been erected by the Danes. They were not only used as places of defence and safety in time of war; but it appears, from their situation, in view of one another, that they served as watch towers, to convey signals, and alarm the coast, at the approach of an enemy. Those forts are all erected upon rising ground, that commands an extensive view to the right and left along the coast, and might easily convey signals by fire. The ruins of some of them still show their strength to have been considerable; particularly one erected upon the top of a hill,

*The most remarkable sea-fowl to be seen here, is the puffin. It is a species of duck, of a gray colour. It seldom attempts to fly, nor are the wings, which are very small and bare, capable to carry its weight to any considerable distance. It is almost entirely a lump of fat, and tastes of fish. The wild goose and swan appear frequently during the winter, but go farther N. in time of hatching. All the wild and tame fowls, commonly seen in other parts of Scotland, are frequently seen upon this coast; and some, that are more rare, particularly the jackdaw, with red bill and feet, hatches in this country. We have no foxes, though they were very numerous in those islands about 40 years ago. Badgers are also banished. But we have 3 different species of wild-cat still remaining, that are very destructive to lambs and poultry. These are the common wild-cat, the pole-cat, and martin.

hill in the form of Ardinamir, in the Island of Luing; part of the wall, from 8 to 10 feet thick, is still entire: And though many of the stones have been removed to other buildings, the quantity yet remaining, is very great, and shows that the strength of the fort was much depended on:

Character of the People.—The inhabitants, in general, are not inferior to those of any country in hospitality and charity. Many exert themselves, in private, to relieve their neighbours; when they are in need of aid; and in public, wherever their help could be expected, their contribution has been cheerful and liberal. However, though hospitable, they are jealous of strangers residing among them. A stranger residing in the country, many of them look upon as an intrusion and encroachment on their right. This prejudice is a legacy left by the feudal system, which length of time only can abolish. All the inhabitants are Protestants. There are no sectaries; except a few, who call themselves Covenanters, whose charity is not very extensive. Charity with them is confined to the household of faith; the members of which they are at no loss to distinguish, and evidently find them to be few:

N U M B E R XII.

PARISH OF KILFINICHEN AND KILVICEUEN.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ARGYLL, PRESBYTERY OF MULL.)

*By the Rev. Mr. DUGAL CAMPBELL.**Name, Situation, and Extent.*

THE several parishes into which the island of Mull was divided in times of Popery, were all united at the Reformation, and called the parish of Mull. It was then a part of the presbytery of Lorn. About the time of the Revolution, all that part of Mull N. of the Tarbart or Isthmus at Aros was erected into a parish, called the parish of Kilninian. The rest of the island of Mull continued to be one parish for upwards of 40 years after this period, and was called the parish of Ross. But being too extensive a charge, a new parish was erected, called the parish of Torafay. What remained was in writings called the parish of Kilfinichen and Kilviceuen, from two places of worship, the one in Airdmeanach, called Kilfinichen, and the other in Ross, called Kilviceuen ;

ceuen; but in the country, it is only known by the name of the parish of Rofs, from a large district of it so called. This very extensive parish is situated in the S. W. part of the island of Mull. It is bounded on the E. and N. E. by a ridge of mountains, which separates it from the parish of Torafay; on the S., an arm of the Atlantic, which runs up to Lochaber, separates it from the islands of Colonsay, Jura, and Isla, and the main land of Argyllshire; on the W., it is washed by the Atlantic; on the N., an arm of the same ocean, called Lochrankeall, separates it from the parish of Kilninian. In Lochrankeall, lie the islands of Innis, Kenneth and Eorfa, belonging to the parish, and the islands of Ulva and Staffa, belonging to the parish of Kilninian. From the parish of Torafay to the Sound of Icolmkill, which is its greatest length, it will measure about 22 miles in a straight line, exclusive of the Island of I. or Icolmkill. Its greatest breadth, when it meets the parish of Torafay, is about 12 measured miles.

Division of the Parish.—The parish is divided into 4 districts, the island of I, or Icolmkill, Rofs, Brolafs, and Airdmeanach. The 3 districts first mentioned, lie to the S. of Lochscridain, an arm of the sea that runs 12 miles from W. to E. into the parish; and the fourth district, Airdmeanach, lies N. of Lochscridain, and parallel to Rofs and Brolafs. The island of I lies in the Atlantic, and is separated from the W. point of Rofs by a narrower channel, called the sound of I. It is about 3 measured miles in length, and from half a mile to a mile in breadth. The districts of Rofs and Brolafs are nearly of equal extent, and separated from one another by a ridge of hills, of no great height. They stretch in a

line from the sound of I, to the parish of Torafay, of about 22 measured miles, which, as already mentioned, is the greatest length of the parish. Their breadth is from 3 to 6 measured miles. Airdmeanach joins Brolafs at the head of Lochscridain, and is about 12 measured miles in length, and from 3 to 6 measured miles in breadth.

Soil and Surface.—The parish, in general, presents a very barren aspect. Part of it is flat, but the greatest part is hilly, and better calculated for grazing than for raising of crops. The island of I is flat, consisting of heath, green pasture, rocks, and arable ground. The arable ground is very fertile. Rofs is flat, except where it marches with Brolafs. The greatest part of the surface is moss and heath; clayey and sandy soil make up the arable land, except where it marches with Brolafs, where the soil is thin and light. The grass is in general soft and good, and even the heath of this district is reckoned good feeding for cattle. The arable land is fertile. Brolafs has a northern exposure, rising in a gentle ascent from Lochscridain. The soil is light, dry, and reckoned barren. The greatest part of the surface consists of heath and rocks. The part of this district that faces the S, called Carfaig and Tinmore, produces good soft grass for pasture. Airdmeanach faces the S., rising to a considerable height from Lochscridain. The soil and surface are similar to Brolafs. A part of this district, called Gribun, faces the N., in which the arable land is fertile, and the grass soft and good. Adjacent to Gribun is the fertile little island of Innis Kenneth. In a parish so very extensive, there are many thousand acres; but though it has been surveyed to a trifle, the incumbent could not get a copy of the survey.

Air,

Air, Diseases, &c.—The air of the parish is very temperate, but rather moist, arising from its being either surrounded by the Atlantic, or the high hills which separate it from the parish of Torasay. The inhabitants are healthy, and attain to great age. Even in Rofs, which is low and marshy, the inhabitants are healthy and long-lived. For though a great deal of rain falls, yet the gales from the mountains purify the air, and contribute to the health of the inhabitants. Few diseases are known except fevers, which are in general brought from the low country, by labourers returning from the harvest and other works they are employed in during the summer and harvest. The island of I is an exception. The inhabitants are not long-lived. Few pass 70 years. The asthma is very frequent among them. This may arise not only from the damp vapours of the Atlantic, but also from the great quantities of sea-ware cast ashore, and allowed to rot, which occasions a very offensive smell, particularly in summer. The havock made formerly by the small pox is now by inoculation mostly done away. The inhabitants of I, Rofs, and Brolafs, inoculate their children; but the people of Airdmeanach have not as yet got over their prejudices, which occasions the loss not only of many young children, but sometimes of grown persons.

Lakes and Rivers.—Three inconsiderable lakes in Rofs are the only ones in the whole parish; the largest of them is not above a mile and a half in length, and about half a mile in breadth. In these there is no kind of fish except trouts. There are 6 rivers in Brolafs and Airdmeanach; but having no lakes for their source, and the run short, they are not considerable, except in time of rain;

rain; then a great quantity of water is rolled down the sides of the hills with prodigious force; the banks are overflowed, and, having no bridges, it is dangerous for travellers to attempt to cross them either a-foot or on horse-back, and often they cannot be crossed either way. The incumbent has crossed them both a-foot and on horse-back, often at a great risk, and has been stopped by them for 24 hours more than once, though within a few miles of his own house. There have been some persons lost in these rivers, but none since the incumbent was settled in the parish. Besides these rivers, there is a number of rivulets that swell in times of rain, and cannot be crossed. In times of rain also, a thousand streams fall down the rocks of Burg, and the rocks at Inimore and Carraig. Burg is a head land of Airdmeanach, facing the Atlantic to the W., and is several miles in circuit. Inimore and Carraig form a continued ridge of 5 or 6 miles in length, facing the S. channel. These rocks being in some places perpendicular, and in all places nearly so, and some hundreds of feet in height, the streams rushing from the tops to the bottoms form very magnificent cascades; and if a high wind blow against these streams, the water is raised up in columns like smoke to the skies.

Sea Coast.—In a parish of such extent, almost surrounded by the sea, and indented by its arms, and to which belong many small islands, besides the island of I it is not exaggeration when the coast is computed to be at least a hundred miles. The shores may be called bold and rocky throughout almost their whole extent. Upon the south side of the parish there is only one creek in Ross, called Portuisgen, where a vessel of about 30 tons may anchor, but not in safety if the weather be stormy.

Upon

Upon the Rofs side of the sound of I, there are two creeks, the one called the Barachan, and the other Poll-tairve or the Bull pond, where vessels of considerable burden may anchor in great safety, with proper pilots. There is a sand bank in the sound of I, near mid channel, so that vessels passing through it, must keep within one third channel of the island of I. Loch-lahich lies E. of the Sound of I, at the distance of about 3 miles. An island, or rock, at the entrance, must be kept by a vessel entering the loch upon the starboard quarter; but with a leading wind a vessel may safely enter between this small island and the Rofs land on the W., as this channel, though narrow, is deep, and free of rocks. After entering the loch, a small island at the bottom of it must be kept upon the larboard. Between this island and the main land, vessels, in general, anchor, though there is no danger in anchoring in any part of the loch. This loch runs about 2 miles from N. to S. into Rofs, and is one of the safest anchorages about the island of Mull. A small arm of it running W., and called Lochcoal, is too shallow for any vessel to anchor in. The whole of Loch-scridain may be called a road, but the best anchoring ground is at Kilfinichen, and another place at the heads of the loch, called the Narrows, where vessels may ride in safety from all storms. The head land of Burg in Airdmeanach, and the whole of the north coast of the same district, is very dangerous. The coast is bold, full of rocks, and no harbour.

Fish and Fisheries.—Great shoals of various kinds of fish surround all the coasts of the parish; such as herrings, cod, ling, mackarel, laith, codling, seth, girnot, rock-fish, or sea-parch, &c. Of flat fish, there are flounders,

ders, plaice, soles, turbot, scates, &c. The shell fish are; oysters, clams, cockles, mussels, wilks, crabs, partons, lobsters, and various others. Seals frequent the coasts. Purpoises often, and sometimes whales, come after the herrings. To render beneficial to the natives this bounty which providence freely offered them at their very doors, the Duke of Argyll, some years ago, divided a farm in Ross, convenient for the white fishing; into a number of crofts. Here his Grace settled some families of country people; and to instruct them in curing the fish properly; he brought, at a considerable expence, some families of fishers from Shetland, and other parts of the north, which he settled among them. He gave them all the most liberal terms: He distributed the crofts among them at a low rent; provided them with boats and lines gratis, built a storehouse for the fish, and grinded meal for their use. In short, he provided them with every necessary, that their attention might be solely taken up with the fishing. But still the fishing by no means answered the expectations that might be reasonably entertained of its success. The fishers complained, with justice, of the rigour of the salt laws, and the great distance between them and Oban, the nearest customhouse, where often, by bad weather, they were long detained from their families. But what rendered their situation still worse, was the low price of fish, and the little demand. His Grace, to obviate as much as possible these inconveniences, got an overseer from Shetland, gave the fishers a certain fixed price for their fish; but, if it drew more at market, they were to have the overplus; and, if less, he alone was to be the loser. He also stored salt for their use, for which the overseer alone was to be answerable to the customhouse. But after every exertion, his

Grace's benevolent and patriotic intentions are, in a manner frustrated, and the prospect of employing, in this branch of industry, the many idle hands in the country with benefit to themselves, and to the community, is nearly vanished. The fishing answered not the idea entertained of the success that would attend it; and after a deal of money sunk by his Grace, it is now followed only, as a by-job*.

Various causes might be assigned for the failure of the fishing in Ross; and the few that follow, the incumbent offers, with the greatest diffidence of his own ability to judge in such a case. The idea entertained by the fishermen of the great shoals of fish upon the coast, and the great profit they were to have, were too sanguine; and when they were, in some degree, disappointed, they were too soon discouraged. The want of markets also, for other kinds of fish that were caught in great plenty, was a misfortune that could not be helped, as there was no town in the neighbourhood to take their fish off their hands. Even the crofts, which the fishermen had from the bounty of the Duke of Argyll, and which they could not want in such a country, hurt the fishing. The first years they took some time to accommodate themselves in houses, &c.; and the season for labouring the crofts was

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the

* This failure is the more to be regretted, as it may discourage the Duke of Argyll from giving any further encouragement to a scheme that answered so ill upon trial. It is particularly unlucky upon account of the country, as the fishing would bring money into it; and no people are better calculated for the fishing than the natives. Accustomed to boats from their infancy, by the almost insular situation of the parish, they pass through the boisterous seas surrounding its coasts, with as much intrepidity, skill, and success, as the natives of Shetland. They were even at the first outset as successful in fishing, and, in a little time, cured equally well as these expert fishermen.

the best for the cod fishing in particular. Upon the produce of them, the natives could live, in some measure, independent of the fishing, and the north country fishers were supported by the Duke of Argyll, whatever became of the fishing. The seasons also were so very severe and stormy, that it was always too late before the cod fishing could be begun. The first year they began, it is true, the 1st of April, and the next, it may be said, it was the 1st of May before a line was set. But whatever may be in these observations, the cause assigned by the fishermen, which was scarcity of fish, may be the true one. though this might be remedied in good seasons, by going to the coast of Tay, which is only at the distance of 8 or 9 leagues, and where the people of Bara get plenty of fish.

It would be unpardonable to omit mentioning the encouragement given to the white fishing by Lieutenant Colonel John Campbell of the marines. This gentleman rents a farm from the Duke of Argyll, adjacent to the fishing village. Being well acquainted with most parts of Britain and Ireland, besides visiting many foreign countries in the course of his service in the navy, he saw with regret, how much his countrymen neglected making the best use of the advantages they enjoyed. He therefore resolved to co-operate, as far as he could, with the humane intentions of the Duke of Argyll. He fitted out a boat, manned it with natives, and, except a little fish for his own table, received no other benefit. But though they were as successful as the other boats, they dropped the fishing. Perhaps the absence of the Colonel, who is called upon again to serve his country, discouraged them. This was a loss to the fishing in general: For the fishers looked upon him as their particular friend; applied to him.

him for their wants in the absence of the Duke of Argyll's chamberlain; and, in all their disputes, looked up to him as to an impartial judge.

For the satisfaction of the curious, an abstract is here given of the number and kinds of fish caught for 2 years, the time the fishing began yearly, and the time it was given up. This abstract was furnished by the overseer appointed by the Duke of Argyll. In the year 1789, 5 boats were employed, and 4 in the year 1790. They fished in water from 25 to 80 fathoms deep.

1789. Boats and Men.	Began.	Haddock.	Flounders.	Ling.	Cod.	Tusk.	Eels.	Scates.	Dog Fish.
Boat 1. 6 Men.	April 1.	5	2346	1211	416	—	40	324	529
Boat 2. 4 Men.	Ditto 8	6	2251	746	403	—	93	390	498
Boat 3. 5 Men.	Ditto 9.	3	1344	585	289	—	72	268	353
Boat 4. 5 Men.	Ditto 27.	—	1616	681	345	—	28	195	381
Boat 5. 5 Men.	May 2.	3	687	361	129	—	35	103	242

This year the fishing was continued to July 25.

Abstract of Fishing for the year 1790.

1790. Boats and Men.	Began.	Haddock.	Flounders.	Ling.	Cod.	Tusk.	Eels.	Scates.	Dog Fish.
Boat 1. 4 Men.	April 7.	5	1078	477	158	—	62	278	784
Boat 2. 5 Men.	Ditto 15.	3	620	455	141	—	24	164	482
Boat 3. 5 Men.	Ditto 16.	2	397	313	104	—	34	119	462
Boat 4. 5 Men.	May 2.	2	522	424	89	—	29	117	428
Ended 6th July.									

This year the 1st boat fished only 4 days before the 1st of May, 2d boat 3 days, and the 3d boat only 2 days.

It has been already observed, that 2 lochs, or arms of the sea, indent the parish; the one called Lochscridair, and the other Lochlahich. Lochscridair abounds in herring of the most excellent quality. In the year 1792, hundreds of vessels might be loaded, but want of intelligence prevented the buffes from coming in till late in the season. The country people killed great quantities. At first, the hundred was sold from 6d. to 8d.: it fell gradually to 2d.: at last some rotted from want of salt, and it was entirely given up for the season. In the year 1793, many buffes were loaded in this loch. The herring of Lochlahich is not of so good a quality, nor was any great quantity got there in any one year since the incumbent was settled in the parish. From the situation of these two lochs, Lochscridair and Lochlahich, and the different quality of the herring caught in them, one would be apt to doubt the generally received hypothesis of the annual migration of the herring into the north seas, and the shoals returning again at a certain season. If the herring, suppose only from these two lochs, migrated to the north seas, as the herring of Lochscridair must pass by Lochlahich, they would, in all probability, mix before their return, and some of the fat herring of the one loch would mix with the poor herring of the other. But this is never the case. But if the herring migrated, why not the herring of every loch equally good at first, and make their appearance earlier in the northern than in the southern lochs? Some fishers in the parish pretend to say, that the herring never leave the lochs, but, after spawning, go to the bottom, where they remain, till they gather strength enough to encounter the streams*.

Sea

* Before the subject of the fishing is dropped, it may be proper to observe the hardship the country people suffer from the salt laws, both as to the

Sea Ware for Manure and Kelp.—Upon every part of the coast, there are various kinds of sea-weeds, or sea-ware, or wrack, as it is called, both for manure and kelp, such as button wrack, lady wrack, black ware, tangle, &c. Every kind of sea-ware is used for manure, and is found to answer the soil best, probably from the great quantity of salt, sea-ware contains, and the cold nature of the soil. Sea-ware is the only manure that answers mossy ground. Indeed, for this it is excellent: It produces crops from the deepest moss. Button wrack, and lady wrack, are best for kelp, and the only kinds used,

the herring and white fishing. Every kind of fishing must be partially carried on by them; that is, they can only fish when not throng at their farming. But even this partial fishing, they are restrained from by the salt laws; for it cannot be supposed, that a man will go 40 or 50 miles to a customhouse for a few baskets of salt, and return again to the same customhouse with the little fish he has cured, or perhaps with his little salt, without any fish at all. Country people also, never will go to a distant customhouse for salt, till the herring appear in the lochs, for fear, as often happens, the fishing may fail; and that having no proper place to keep the salt, it may, in different ways be embezzled, and they incur all the penalties of the salt laws. When the herring appear, the weather may be bad, the distance to a customhouse great, the salt damaged in their open boats, and the herring, in a great measure, disappear, or, at least, much valuable time lost before they return home to the fishing. There is a customhouse in Tobermory in Mull; but the Oban customhouse is as near the the parish of Roßa. The case is nothing better as to smuggled salt. The smugglers will at all times endeavour, by high prices, to indemnify themselves for the risk they run; and, in times of scarcity, their prices are very high. The incumbent was told, that, in 1792, it was sold in some parts of the country at a guinea the barrel: But, however low smuggled salt may be in price, no fish cured with it can be sold in open market. If salt were duty free, all these grievances would be done away, and farmers and cottagers would cure fish, not only for their own private use, but also for sale. The incumbent does not pretend to say, what would be best for the herring business. In all, he says, he had only in view the country people.

used, unless the price be very high. Except these two kinds, every other is very expensive in manufacturing, and produces but little kelp. The quantity of kelp made in the parish, varies according to the price it draws. When the price was high, and every kind of sea-ware used, there were from 130 to 150 tons made annually; but the price falling greatly in 1791, there were not probably 70 tons made the following year in the whole parish. Then the price was so low, and the wages of manufacturers so high, that, in many parts, even the button wrack was used for manure. The price of no commodity in the country varies so much as that of kelp. It sometimes rises to 8l. the ton, and sometimes falls as low as 50s. Various reasons are assigned for the late fall in the price of kelp; such as kelp imported from foreign countries, and other substitutes used now where kelp was used formerly. The buyers also complained, that, in manufacturing the kelp, stones and sand were mixed with it, which, besides the loss of weight to the buyers, hurt also the quality of it. Though this abuse was by no means carried to the height complained of by the buyers, and only by a few individuals, yet it undoubtedly affected the price of kelp. The buyer, however, ought to observe, that sand sticks to the sea-ware, and that some stones will mix with it in the manufacturing kilns, in spite of all the care and attention of the manufacturers. The Duke of Argyll, upon being informed of this complaint, gave orders to his chamberlain to intimate to his Grace's tenants, and all the kelp manufacturers upon his estate, that whoever was found guilty of adulterating the kelp, would find no shelter upon his estate, and that they would be prosecuted and punished as far as the law would admit. This will have a good effect upon his Grace's

Grace's estate, and is worthy of imitation by the Highland proprietors of kelp shores. Kelp is of great consequence to the Highlands in particular, and of some to the kingdom in general. The manufacturing of it employs many of the natives; the price it draws brings money to the country, which is again circulated through the kingdom at large, and keeps that money in the kingdom, which is sent to foreign countries to purchase kelp, and such materials as may be substitutes for Highland kelp. If patriotism does not rouse the proprietors, their own interest ought. The commodities of the country are but few; and of these the best use ought to be made.

Mountains and Volcanic Appearances.—The only mountains are those that divide the parish from that of Torafay. The most remarkable of these is Beinmore. This is the highest mountain in Mull, and rises to a great height. Such as have been at the top, say, the view is very extensive, and that in a clear day Ireland may be seen from it. The headland of Burg rises to a considerable height from the sea, and is pretty much of a conical form. All the mountains and hills in the country are covered with heath. In many parts of the parish, there are Basaltic pillars, like those of Staffa, but not so large, so regular, nor so elegant. Many broken pillars appear in the headland of Burg, in a farm of Ross, called Ardtan, and in many parts of Bro-lafs, and more particularly in Inimore facing the S. Channel. In this last place, the rocks rise almost perpendicular from the sea to a great height. In the face of these rocks the pillars appear. In some parts there are 4 ranges; in others 5 ranges of small pillars appear, with strata of rock between each range. The pillars
are

are small, nor are the ranges very regular. Seams of coals appear in some places. Taking the whole together, the appearance is very picturesque, particularly in times of storms and of rain, when the sea rages below, and numberless cascades fall precipitately down the precipices and broken rocks above. Some travellers greatly admire the appearance of this scene, and allege, that the pillars here, and at the other places mentioned, are the effects of volcanoes, or some violent concussion of the earth.

Rocks and Stones.—There are rocks and stones of various kinds in the parish, such as marble, granite, free-stone, lime-stone, moor-stone or whin-stone, flags and pebbles. A marble quarry was opened some years ago, under the patronage of the Duke of Argyll, in the island of I, which is his Grace's property. A considerable quantity of marble was quarried, and sent to Leith and London; but, after much money was laid out, the quarry was given up, for some time at least. The marble is said to be of excellent quality. The whole coast of Rofs, upon the sound of I, is granite for several miles. No use is made of it, except in building farm-houses and walls. There is lime-stone in Carraig and Gribun; but both these coasts are so dangerous for shipping, that no use is made of it. Free-stone is also found in Carraig of excellent quality. Some of it is used by several gentlemen in the county for their houses. A great proportion of the rocks of Rofs consists of flags, that might serve to excellent purpose for arching of bridges. The only use they are put to in the country is lintels for doors and windows, and building farm-houses and walls.

walls. Pebbles are found in the island of I, of which seals and sleeve-buttons are made.

Mines.—Coals appear in different parts of the parish. There is a seam about 3 feet thick in a hill called Bein-an-Ini. Sir Alexander Murray of Stanhope, early in this century, purchased the hill for the sake of the coals. He began to work them; but his affairs getting into disorder, he was obliged to stop the work. Sir James Riddel of Ardnamurchan, who is now proprietor, made a trial some years ago; but, after some coals were dug, he also gave up the work. Different skilful persons have been viewing it since; but what opinion they had of it, is not publickly known. The quality of the coals is said to be good. A seam of about 18 inches thick, appears upon the sea coast of Rofs, the property of the Duke of Argyll. No trial has been made here; and the reason probably is; that the seam would not answer. His Grace sent a skilful person to view it. The incumbent dug some of the coals, and they burnt very well. Coals also appear in Brolafs and Gribun, the property of Captain M'Lean of Kinlochalvin.

Lightning.—In high countries, the hills and mountains attracting the lightning, it seldom does any hurt in the low ground; and the damage it has done in this parish deserves to be mentioned only as an exception from this general rule. Many years before the incumbent was settled in the parish, a gentleman in Rofs lost 2 horses by lightning. Many of the people of his farm received a shock, but were not hurt. Not many years ago, a filly was killed by lightning in another farm in Rofs, upon the found of I. Some of the people of the

farm received a shock, and such as were standing at work were thrown flat on the ground. In the beginning of harvest 1786, some of the herring fishers in Lochscredain received a shock by lightning, but felt no inconvenience from it afterward. It is said, that at the same time some sheep were killed by it in Burg, the headland of Airdmeanach.

Caves.—Among the many caves in Airdmeanach 2 only deserve to be mentioned. One is called the Ladder's Cave. There is a passage to this cave of about 80 feet, open above, and where 2 men may walk abreast. A breast-work is built at the entrance of the cave as a defence. To this breast-work a ladder was standing for people to get over it to the cave; from which circumstance it took its name. Within the cave, there is room for about 80 armed men. Here is a large flag, which is said to be used as a table, and some other conveniencies. In this cave, tradition says, people took shelter in times of trouble. The other cave is in Gribun in Airdmeanach, and is still much more capacious than the Ladder's Cave. It took its name, as tradition goes, from a gentleman of the name of M'Kinnon going in to search for the bottom, which was then thought impossible to find, as the cave was supposed to go quite across the country. M'Kinnon went in, and was never heard of again. But the cave's being bottomless, or going across the country, is without foundation, as the incumbent saw a man who alleged, that he was at the further end, and searched with his stick, but could find no passage further than he was. So that if there is any truth in M'Kinnon's story, he must have been killed by people who took shelter in the cave; and as the people of the country were

were afraid of going in search of him, the story spread that he bewildered himself in the cave, and was lost. People might also find it their interest to propagate this story, and give a horrid idea of the cave, as it was used for a place of shelter in troublesome times. There is a cave in Inimore, called the Nun's Cave. It is singular in nothing but its being the habitation of nuns. Tradition is silent as to the time they lived here; whether before the dissolution of the nunnery at I, or whether they sheltered themselves in this sequestered place upon that revolution's taking place. Several crosses are cut in the sides of the cave, but the initials of names are modern.

Quadrupeds and Birds.—The only wild quadrupeds in the parish are deer, foxes, and rabbits. The rabbits may be called strangers, having appeared first within these few years. The deer have always been natives. In harvest, they often leave the mountains, and eat the corn in the low grounds of Ross and Brolafs; and, in severe winters, they have been known to mix with the black cattle, and take their share of the corn with which they were fed. The mountains being now stocked with sheep, may, in the course of a few years, banish them from the island of Mull. There is all the variety of land-birds found in the parish, that are generally met with in other parts of the Highlands; such as eagles, hawks, kites, wild geese, pigeons, moor fowls, black cocks, tarmagans, &c. &c. The sea fowls are as numerous as the kinds are various; such as cormorants, scarts, teels, scale drakes, ducks of various kinds, &c. The migratory are swans, swallows, cuckoos, lapwing,

wood cocks, plovers, solon geese, curlews, widgeons, &c.

Population.—The return to Dr. Webster in 1755 was 1685 souls *. There was a partial list taken of the inhabitants by the incumbent in March 1782. This list was only exact as to the island of I, in which there were then 277 souls. The increase of population in that small island, from the period mentioned to February 1791,

* There are no certain data by which a comparison can be drawn between the ancient and present state of the population of the parish. Tradition is uncertain, and there was no register of any kind kept until the present incumbent was settled in the year 1780. Some would conclude, that the population in ancient times was greater, because some spots in tillage are now covered with heath; and some would draw a contrary conclusion, from lands being brought to tillage now that never were so before. But both conclusions are fallacious. These circumstances depended entirely upon the possessors of the farms. When a gentleman possesses large tracts, he allows lands formerly in tillage to lie idle for pasture, which is soon covered with heath; and small tenants, if they are straitened for arable ground, bring into tillage ground that never was so before. To confirm the great population of ancient times, it is said, that 7 score men, from the districts of Ross and I alone, were at the battle of Inverkeithing; but these 2 districts would furnish such a number to-day without materially hurting agriculture. The only reason for thinking that the parish was more populous in former times is, the small spots of farms into which the country was divided. But whatever might be the population of these times, it is certain, that there is a great increase of inhabitants since the commencement of this century. The destructive rage with which the civil wars were carried on in the time of Charles the First, and a famine and pestilence, in the time of King William, almost depopulated the whole parish. In the reign of the latter Prince, people were dying for want upon the high road, and buried where they breathed their last, as the few surviving relations had neither strength nor means to carry them to the common burying places. Upon the whole coast of Brolas, it is said, 2 families only survived, and very many parts of the other districts were waste. King William's days are still remembered with horror.

1791, a space of near 9 years, was 46 souls. The population of the rest of the parish, particularly Rofs, increased in the same proportion*. The incumbent got the inhabitants numbered in February 1791; the return was 3002. This return must have been exact, as the name of every person was written down. In such an extensive parish, where the incumbent could not examine every person upon the spot, the different ages could not be ascertained; only in the island of I, where the schoolmaster marked the particular ages of the inhabitants, 323 in number, and are as follows: Under 10 years of age, 79; between 10 and 20, 73; between 20 and 50, 138; between 50 and 60, 23; between 60 and 70, 5; 80, 2; 85, 2; above 100, 1. Of these are 155 females, and 168 males.—In Rofs, where there are 1240 souls, there are 27 persons from 80 to 90 years of age, and 11 from 90 to 100. The precentor is about 81, and a tailor by trade; he is still stout and healthy. The bellman is about 80; he was twice married, and went with his children by the second marriage, 5 in number,

* The reason of the increase of population in this parish is common to it with the rest of the Hebrides. Few leave the country, if they can procure a house, which is easily built, with a spot of ground for crop, and a cow's grass. All marry young, and being healthy, their progeny is numerous. The parents also, that their children might settle in the country, and near them, often share their lands with them, whether male or female. There is another reason why population should increase upon the Duke of Argyll's property. From his estate, small tenants are never removed, while they behave properly. It is no secret in the country, that his Grace continued their farms to small tenants, at the former rent, though large augmentations were offered by gentlemen who were better able, and would pay their rents more punctually. From the same principle of humanity, it has also happened often, that his Grace, though with loss of rent, ordered farms to be divided into small portions, to accommodate numbers that would otherwise be destitute, and obliged, with weak and helpless families, to leave the country.

number, to Glasgow in summer 1792; but the badness of the times obliged him to return to the country in summer 1793. There are in Ross 3 brothers and a sister of the name of M'Gilvra, whose ages, taken together, are 342 years.

*Abstract of Baptisms and Marriages for 8 years, as marked in the Register *.*

Years.		Baptisms.		Marriages.
1783	—	72	—	16
1784	—	90	—	9
1785	—	81	—	13
1786	—	92	—	17
1787	—	89	—	14
1788	—	89	—	24
1789	—	80	—	8
1790	—	73	—	20

Division of the Inhabitants — In the parish there are 6 brogue makers; 3 who are shoemakers and brogue makers; 2 boat carpenters; 1 wheel wright; 2 smiths; 3 millers; 6 who occasionally buy goods in the Low country, and retail them in the parish; a great many weavers and tailors. There is only one boat in the parish that carries so much as 9 tons. There are no Jews, negroes, gipsies, foreigners, or persons born in England, Ireland, or the colonies. There are 2 surgeons, but without

* The incumbent is not sensible, that he missed registering either a marriage or baptism since the year 1782; but, considering the situation and extent of the parish, a few baptisms might be forgotten. This is the less to be wondered at, as parents often, in the more remote skirts, meet him with their infants at a distance from houses, where they were baptised, and where, in a rainy day, he could not mark the names in his memorandum book for the parish register. There are 13 burial places in the parish, at a great distance from the incumbent and from one another, so that deaths are never registered.

without farms, their practice would not maintain them one-third of the year. There are 6 houses for retailing of spirits. There are no lawyers.

Emigration.—A few families have emigrated to America within these few years, and several families went, in 1792, to the Low country to cotton works, &c. All of these left the country for want of employment. Most of the families that went to the Low country in 1792, returned back in 1793, for the same reason they left the country, want of employment. No people are more attached to their native country; and it is only necessity that obliges them to leave it.

Animal and Vegetable Productions.—The animals in the parish are black cattle, horses, sheep, and goats. This parish, as well as the rest of Mull, is distinguished for a hardy breed of black cattle, that are easily fattened. Their flesh is fine grained, juicy, and well tasted. The sheep, till lately, were of the small Highland kind, with very fine wool, and sweet delicate flesh; but now the hills are all stocked with Low country sheep, whose wool is coarse in comparison of the Highland sheep, and their flesh not so well tasted. The horses are hardy, full of mettle, and sure footed upon the roughest roads. The I horses are hardly superior in size to the Shetland ponies, but now they are getting some equal in size to their neighbours upon the continent of Mull. The parish also reared a number of breeding mares, which not only supplied itself in working horses, but a considerable number were also sold out of the country. The case is now altered. The hills that formerly served as nurseries for mares are now converted into sheep walks; and if the rage for sheep stock-
ing

ing goes on, not only this parish, but the rest of Mull must buy labouring horses. There are but few goats. They are entirely banished from the Duke of Argyll's property. The ancient fouming of the parish was 3068 head of black cattle, from 3 years old and upwards; Birks and 2 year olds; not being reckoned founs. The number of sheep was the same with the black cattle. There were near 1000 working hofes, besides mares and followers. The fouming now is less, and varies every year. Indeed the number of every kind is quite uncertain. Every gentleman farmer, at least, does more justice to his cattle than formerly, and stocks his farm according to his own taste and conveniency. There are at present near 3000 Low country sheep in the parish, and consequently the numbers of cows, horses, and Highland sheep, have decreased in proportion. Formerly no farm was stocked wholly with one kind, but every farm had a certain proportion of cows, horses, mares, sheep, and goats; but now the farms are, in general, wholly stocked with the kind that suits them best.

The vegetable productions are oats, barley, and potatoes. There are two kinds of oats; great oats, and what is called small oats. The incumbent was the first, about 10 years ago, to sow great oats, but still very few sow it, though it answers very well in good years. The small oats is a very poor kind of grain, a boll of it hardly yielding 4 stones of meal; but it is hardy, and the grain being light, it is not apt to be shaken in bad years. It is also better calculated to feed outlying cattle in winter, than great oats. A considerable quantity of barley is raised, which is, in general, very good, except the barley of Icolmkill, which yields but from 11 to 12 stones of meal the boll. The principal food of the inhabitants is potatoes;

atoes, of which great quantities are raised. The parish, however, never serves itself entirely, even in the best years; and in bad seasons, great quantities of meal are imported. In summer 1791, upwards of 2000 bolls of meal, besides potatoes, were imported. That year was much severer than summer 1783, and, together with several bankruptcies that happened then, reduced the inhabitants to great difficulties. The year 1793 is pretty plentiful; and though the Duke of Argyll, dread- ing a scarcity, ordered meal to Mull, and to be distributed at prime cost, yet such was the plenty in the parish, that only the incumbent, and 2 or 3 other gentlemen upon his Grace's property in the parish, had any occasion for it. Perhaps, by a better mode of agriculture, the parish might, in general, serve itself, particularly Ross and the island of I. The sowing begins generally about the 20th of March, and is finished by the middle of May, except the island of I, which is not over with the barley sowing till after the middle of June: But such is the heat of the soil, that they cut down their crop earlier than any part of the rest of the parish. In good seasons, the crop is cut down in September: In bad seasons, some of the crop has not been cut down till November.

Manure and Mode of Cultivation.—The different kinds of manure made use of through the parish, are shell sand, with which Ross abounds, dung from the housed cattle, and sea ware, of which mention is made already. Cattle also lie upon some field in every farm in summer and harvest, which is called teathing; and where ferns are found, they are laid upon the fields in July and August. As there are no cart roads in the parish, the manure is laid out upon the ground in creels upon horseback,

which wastes a deal of time. The plough made use of in the parish is probably the same that was used for centuries back. It is very uncouth, and drawn by 4 horses a-breast. The reason probably was, that they knew no better; for the incumbent, several years ago, got a two-horse plough, and many are following the example. The want of a proper plough-maker is a great loss. At present every one makes his own plough. Captain MacLean of Kenlochalmine, a residing heritor, has got a Low country ploughman, who holds the plough, and drives the horses. It is hardly possible, in most parts of the parish, to carry on any regular system of farming, the ground is so broken, and full of loose stones. But a great deal might be done, by turning the loose stones off the ground, and rendering other parts accessible to the plough, which now are not. Many parts are soft and mossy. These parts are dugged with Highland spades, with great toil. However, the crops these places yield, seem, in some measure, to compensate the trouble. The mode of sowing barley in I, in dry seasons, and in sandy soil, is pretty singular. The barley is sown before the ground is ploughed, and then they plough the ground over it. This prevents the grain being bared, by high winds drifting the sand off it. This mode was undoubtedly introduced by necessity, and answers very well.

Potatoes are planted in the lazy-bed way, dibbled and drilled. In winter, as much sea-ware as can be collected upon beaches and in creeks, is laid upon ground formerly in tillage, or upon moss. This ground is made into ridges, and the sea-ware covered from the furrows by earth, or moss. Here, in spring, potatoes are dibbled, which are dry and wholesome. The sea-ware cut or gathered upon the shores in spring, is laid upon the ground,

ground, the potatoes are laid upon the sea-ware, and covered with earth from the furrows. The potatoes growing from this mode of management, are generally wet and spongy. Potatoes are planted in dung in this last mode. Few in the parish drill their potatoes.

Measure and Price of Grain.—The whole produce of Ross, the island of I, and the rest of the Duke of Argyll's property, is sold by the peck. A peck by which barley is sold, and sometimes oats, is streaked, and contains upwards of 10 Scotch pints. Another peck by which oats are sold heaped, and meal streaked, contains 6 Scotch pints. Potatoes are sometimes sold by the barrel, and sometimes by the peck. In other parts of the parish, different measures are used. It is among the great desiderata in the kingdom, a uniformity of weights and measures. Without this, it is impossible to form a comparison between the price of grain, and the seller is as much in the dark as the buyer. The boll of small oats sells from 8s. to 10s. The meal it produces in Ross is about 4 stoness weight. The barley of I is sold from 16s. to 20s. It meals about 12 stoness. The rest of the barley of the parish is generally sold at 20s. the boll, and meals about 16 stoness weight. Potatoes in good years sell from 20d. to 2s. the barrel: At seed-time, in bad years, such as 1791, they rose to 5s. the barrel. Meal imported into the parish is from 16s. to 20s. the boll of 8 stoness, and cannot often be got in the parish at that price, so that such as want are obliged to send a boat, or horses for it, to a distant quarter, at a considerable expence. The meal imported into the country is from Clyde, and besides prime cost in that part, commission money, freight, and whatever profit the mealmongers choose to charge, is added. So little

correspondence is between the parish and Ireland, that meal, though cheap there, is never imported to the parish from that country *.

* *Wages, &c.*—The wages of household labouring servants have increased very rapidly within these few years. In 1780, the common wages in the year for men servants were from 2*l.* 2*s.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*, with 4 pair of brogues. Wages increased gradually to Whitsunday 1792, when the common rate, to the next Martinmas, was 2*l.* 10*s.*, with 2 pair of brogues; and from that term to Whitsunday 1793, the wages were 3*l.*, with the same number of brogues. This rapid rise in wages was owing to the great demand for hands for manufactures, and other works, carried on in the Low Country of Scotland, and in England. Such was the rage that seized young fellows to leave the country at that period, that it was with the utmost difficulty servants could be got at any wages. The common practice is to go off in April or beginning of May, some to the Low Country of Scotland, and some to England. They generally come home again to their parents and relations in November, and seldom engage in any work till the season for leaving the country returns again. Numbers also go to the harvest, and return again in the latter end of October or beginning of November. This custom is productive of more evils than one. It spreads a spirit of giddiness, idleness, and immorality through the parish. These emigrants also bring home diseases that prove fatal to many; such as fevers, small pox, measles, &c. This advance of wages is very hurtful to the improvement of the country, as few country farmers can afford so much. It is true, the wages are not in appearance greater than in the Low Country; but they must appear, as they in reality are, much higher, when the situation of the country is taken into consideration. The ground is interspersed with rocks and large loose stones, unfavourable to the plough, so that a great part is digged. Manure, &c. is carried on horseback, as there is no road for carts; and even in the shortest days, no work is carried on with candle-light; so that, upon the whole, a servant, where a proper system of farming is carried on, will perform double the quantity of work. If wages continue on the increase, the country must be turned to large grazings, where few tenants are necessary, or divided into small spots, when every man will be able to cultivate his share with his own hands. In the first case, mossy and heathy grounds will, in the course of a few years, return to their first state, after all the trouble taken to bring them to tillage and to graze; and in the second, the people must remain so poor, that they can neither enclose nor improve their lands properly.

The

Proprietors and Rent.—There are 6 proprietors in the parish; 3 of whom only reside in it. In 1791, the rent of the parish was 2711l. 11s. 4d., but it has been fluctuating since. The Duke of Argyll's rents were not augmented for a number of years prior to that period, and some augmentation was laid on a few farms. Other heritors,

The wages of servant-maids are very low; from 18s. to 21s. and a pair of breeches, is the common rate for a year. Their wages have not increased for many years. Numbers of them, as well as of the men, go to the Low Country to the harvest, and also engage in family service, and other works. There are other servants common to this parish with the rest of the Western Isles, and different from those already mentioned. There are mealers, workmen, moor-herds, and grass-keepers or chafers. The mealers are a kind of subtenants, and employed only by gentlemen. They take the arable ground of a farm at so much meal yearly. Besides raising the crop, they carry on the other work of the farm with whatever assistance can be given them by the tackfman. They have the grass of 2 or 3 cows, and some sheep. They furnish half the labouring horses. They are fed by the tackfman every day; he employs them at any work, except what concerns the crop. Few now are employed as mealers. The only difference between mealers and workmen is, that workmen, instead of meal, deliver 3-fourths of the crop to the master, after it is cut, and keep the fourth to themselves. The master furnishes all the labouring horses.

The particular situation of the country has given rise to grass-keepers or chafers. In many parts, there are no kind of march walls; and where there are march walls, they are so bad, that they are no fence. The consequence is, that every farm is obliged to keep a man to look after the marches, without any other employment. This man gets for his trouble a house, a cow's grass, and grass for a horse, some sheep, and ground for crop. Moor-herds are employed to look after their master's cattle in moors and hills; and his terms are generally the same with grass-keepers. All these kinds of servants, viz. mealers, workmen, grass-keepers, and moor-herds, have families. There are hardly any employed as day-labourers; when they are, their wages are from 8d. to 1s. a-day, besides their victuals. Tailors charge the same. Broguemakers charge 4d. a-pair, when they are victualled, and 6d. a-pair, when they are not. Wall-builders and ditchers have so much a rood.

ritors, owing to bad times, bankruptcies, and perhaps high rents, were obliged to give deductions ; so that the rent is now rather lower upon the whole. The incumbent has in his hands a copy of the real rent of the parish in 1771. It was then 96*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* : There has been but little augmentation laid upon the Duke of Argyll's property since that period.

Services.—The Duke of Argyll exacts services of no kind of his tenants ; the rest of the heritors do. Services are always stipulated, and consist chiefly in cutting peats, and leading them home to the proprietors houses. As coals are now duty free, it is probable, that whatever other services may be exacted, there will be none as to peats.

Antiquities.—In this the island of I takes the lead. Writers mention this island under three names, viz. Hii, Iona, and Iolumkill. Bede calls it Hii, but the proper name is I*, which in the Gaelic signifies an island, and is called so by way of eminence to this day. Bede's mistake proceeded from his ignorance of the Gaelic. In monkish writers, it is called Iona†, which signifies the Island of Waves. In more modern times, it was called I-collum-kill ; that is, the island of Colum-kill, in honour of Columba. The name Iona is now quite lost in the country, and it is always called I, except when the speaker would wish to lay an emphasis upon the word, then it is called Iolumkill‡.

The

* I is sounded like ee in English.

† Iona is, in Gaelic, spelt I-thonn ; but as the th is not sounded, Latin writers spell it Iona. The name is very characteristic of it in times of storm.

‡ Bede writes, that I belonged to Britain, being separated from it, as he says, but by a narrow arm of the sea ; and that the Picts, who inhabited

The Druids undoubtedly possessed I, before the introduction of Christianity. A green eminence, close to the sound of I, is to this day called the Druid's burial place *. A cottager, some years ago, planting potatoes in this spot, and digging earth to cover them, brought up some bones, which the people of the island immediately concluded to be the bones of the Druids. The tradition is, that the first Christians banished the Druids, and took possession of their seat. The Druids also had a temple at the head of Lochscridain, in a farm called Rossal †. This temple is but small, and several of the stones have fallen down. Here, as the name of the place indicates, they held courts of justice.

I seems to be early the seat of a religious society of Christians. Scots historians say, that Fergus the II. erected a religious house, with a stately church, in Iona, where his successors were buried. Bede, in the passage already quoted, countenances the opinion of Scotch monks

habited that part of Britain, made a present of it to the Scotch monks, who converted them to the Christian religion. By the Picts, who made the present, Bede must mean the Picts inhabiting S. of the Firths of Forth and Clyde; for Britain extended, according to ancient writers, that far only, all N. of that, or the wall of Agricola, being called Albin or Scotia. But there is not the smallest probability that I ever belonged to the Picts, as the venerable writer asserts. The least knowledge of geography will convince any one of this. Bede was indefatigable in his researches after whatever concerned the first planting of Christianity in every part of the island of Britain, but looked upon profane subjects only as secondary objects. The Picts were separated from I, not by a narrow arm of the sea, as he says, but by a wide and tempestuous ocean. He says, in other places, that I is in Hibernia; by this he means Albin or Scotland, which in those ages was often called Hibernia.—Book. III. chap. 3.

* *Claodh nan Druineach*, signifies the Druid's burial place.

† *Rosal*, in the old Gaelic, signifies, judgment, justice.

monks being settled in I, about the period assigned to Fergus the II. by the Scotch historians. The first Christians that possessed themselves of I were, in all probability, the Culdees. They were a kind of monks, under certain regulations; and as they affected retired places, as their name * imports, they could not in any country find a place more happily suited to their purpose. One place in I is still called the Culdee's Cell †. It is the foundation of a small circular house, upon a reclining plain. From the door of the house, a walk ascends to a small hillock, with the remains of a wall upon each side of the walk, which grows wider to the hillock. There are evident traces of the walls of the walk taking a circuit round, and enclosing the hillock. The figure the Druids and Culdees made in I is uncertain. History may be said to be silent concerning their transactions in that island, and even tradition carries down but faint traces of their having existed there. It was reserved for Columba to raise the fame of I to the great height it attained to in his own and after ages; though, no doubt, the merit of his successors contributed not a little ‡.

Present

* Culdee is a Gaelic word, signifying a monk, or hermit, or any sequestered person. Cuildeach is common to this day, and given to persons not fond of society. The word is derived from Cuil, a retired corner.

† Cathan, or Cothan Cuillich, signifies the Culdee's cell or couch.

‡ This eminent man, according to Bede, B. III. c. 4. came to Britain to preach the gospel to the northern Picts, in the year 565, and in the reign of Eugene the Third. After stripping the History of Columba of the ridiculous and fabulous legends with which it is disfigured and disgraced, enough remains to convince us, that he was a man of considerable political abilities, of an undaunted and firm disposition, and of zeal in religious matters, capable of carrying him through any danger or fatigue. Kings listened with reverence to his admonitions; armies, when ready to engage, stopt at his command; and he maintained the
greatest

Present State of I.—The ruins of I, by the generous care and attention of the family of Argyll, are kept, perhaps, in better preservation than most ruins of the kind in Scotland. Since the Reformation, one of the Earls of Argyll roofed the cathedral steeple, and built up most of the doors with stone and lime, to prevent cattle getting through the ruins. Duke Archibald of Argyll built a wall round the whole abbey, to prevent the building's being hurt. But this wall being thought insufficient, the present Duke of Argyll built it anew; got a lock and key to it, and made it an effectual fence.

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greatest sway, not only in the kingdom of the Gauls or Scots, where he lived, but also among the Irish, Picts, and Saxons. He died, in an advanced age, in the beginning of the 7th century. His life is written in a prolix and confused manner, by Adamnan, who was Abbot of I. The celebrated abbey which he founded, had very extensive jurisdictions, and, for many ages, held the chief sway among the Scottish and Pictish monasteries. It was liberally endowed by the piety and munificence of the kings and great men of the kingdom of Scotland. Buchanan mentions several islands that belonged to it. The fertile island of Tirii once did, as the name indicates, and the divisions of it being still called Monk's portions. The same spirit of piety, which so liberally provided for the support of the monks, reared also stately buildings, both for devotion and accommodation, as their ruins still shew. Such was the reputed sanctity of the place, that not only the kings of Scotland, but some Irish kings, and the petty Norwegian princes of the Isles, ordered their remains to be buried in this hallowed ground. Their tombs, with inscriptions pointing out to whom they belonged, were entire in Buchanan's days; but there is no inscription now, though the place is pointed out. All the great families in the Western Isles had their burial places in I; some of their grave-stones are very well carved. The burying ground surrounds St. Oran's Chapel. A few hundred yards from the abbey, is the nunnery. It was also liberally endowed. Some lands in Mull are still called the Nun's Lands. Here the abbesses were buried. One inscription is still legible. Till within these few years, all the females were buried at the nunnery, and all the males at the abbey. With few exceptions, it is still the case; such is the force of custom and prejudice.

He also got a leaf to the main door of the nunnery church, with a lock and key, and built up the other doors. His Grace prohibits his tenants from removing stones from the place where they fall, and charged his chamberlain to see these orders strictly complied with. But, notwithstanding the care taken of them, parts of some of them have fallen, and time has levelled others of them with the ground. Some of them have done so within these few years, and several more within the memory of some people still living, particularly some elegant arches near the nunnery, and the abbot's house, which is said to be a very handsome building. But most of the buildings are standing, and seem to have received no injury but from time, which was probably the case with the whole of them. The cathedral, or St. Mary's, is almost entire, with the steeple. It is only within these few years that part of the E. end of the tranverse fell, and some of the head of the cross. St. Oran's Chapel is still standing, but in a tottering condition. The Virgin's Chapel was standing till within these few years, when part of it fell. Most of the cloisters are still standing. The Bishop's, which is small, is also standing. So that there is still remaining of the abbey what will give a pretty complete idea of what it was.

At the nunnery, there are fewer remains. The Nunnery Church is quite entire; one end of it is arched, and is very beautiful. Here also stands, what was called the parish church. It is yet entire, but tottering. There was a court, with a piazza, to the W. side of the Nunnery Church, and round it the cloisters were built; but there are hardly any remains of them, but on the S. side of the court.

To the N. of the abbey is a loch, as it is called, but probably an artificial pond. It has a paved causeway * through the middle, which is still entire. It is said, the edges of this pond were all planted. Porta-chunich ought to be mentioned. Here, as tradition goes, was the place where Columba first landed in I, and left his currach; from which the place has its name. An artificial mound, of the form of a boat with the keel up, is said to be the dimensions of Columba's currach. This mound measures near 50 feet in length. Upon this beach the pebbles are got.

It is said, there was a monastery in the island of Inniskenneth, but no traces of the buildings are to be seen. A small church, said by Buchanan to be a parish church, still remains. What is pretty singular, a small bell, used at the celebration of mass, is still lying on the altar. There are in the parish many of the round towers said to be Danish. They are upon the sea coast, and in sight of one another. They seem to be watch-towers to give notice of an enemy's approach, which was done from the battlement by a smoke in the day time, and a fire at night. They are very small; most of them would not contain 20 men.

There are in many parts of the parish, long stones standing on end. They are called Carra †, and seem to be set up at the head of the graves of eminent men, or as memorials of some remarkable transactions carried on in these places.

Learning and Learned Men.—Learning flourished, and found a safe retreat, in the sequestered island of Icolm-

C c 2

kiln,

* The walk is called Iumaire Iachair, which signifies a paved causeway.

† Carra, signifies friendship.

kiln, when western Europe lay buried in the ignorance and barbarity brought on by the cruel ravages of the savage nations that overturned the Roman empire : and from this seminary issued pious and learned monks and laymen, who again revived learning, and propagated Christianity through many kingdoms of Europe. Columba's writings are said to be numerous : a catalogue of them is given at the end of Lhoyd's *Archæologia*.—St. Aidan, from I, in the 7th century, at the request of Oswald King of Northumberland, converted that kingdom, and founded the bishoprick of Lindisferne, or Holy Island, which was afterwards translated to Durham by Malcolm the III. of Scotland. Bede (B. III. chap. 3.) gives him the greatest character for mildness, piety, and other virtues, and blames him only for being a quaterdeciman. St. Finan and St. Colman, both from I, succeeded him in the bishoprick. In St. Colman's time, the dispute about the celebration of Easter began, which obliged him to leave the kingdom of Northumberland. The famous St. Cuthbert was Columba's disciple. The writings of Adamnan, abbot of I, are in the hands of the learned. Campbell and Veremond, &c. flourished in I ; and many more, whose very names would form a large catalogue.

Since the Reformation, the parish has produced none eminent for learning, if we except the Beaton's of Penicross, who were doctors of physic. The family is now extinct ; but they are still spoken of in the country with admiration for their skill in physic. It is said, that one of them was sent for to attend one of the kings of Scotland ; and that the people of the country flocked to him for advice as to their health, during his absence,
when

When he gave them this short rule: "To be cheerful, temperate, and early risers *." They had a large folio MS. in Gaelic, treating of phyfic, which was left with a woman, the heiress of the Beaton, and seen by some now living; but what became of it, the incumbent, after all his inquiries, could not find. It is perhaps lost, as the heirs of this woman are quite illiterate †.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The parish being mostly furrounded by the sea, and indented by its arms, is a very great advantage. By this, the inhabitants have an opportunity of catching great numbers of various kinds of fish for family use, and generally more herring than is sufficient for the consumption of the parish. The sea breezes also are so warm, particularly in Ross and I, that frost and snow seldom last for any time in

* *Bhi gu fogah, geannmni, mechrach.*

† It has been warmly disputed, whether there was a library at I; and much has been written on both sides of the question. The doubt has arisen entirely from prejudice. There can be no doubt, but the many learned men that flourished at I, had the classics among them, and all the books on divinity and science these ages could afford. It can be as little doubted, that, like other societies of learned men, they committed their own thoughts to writing, as well as the transactions of their countrymen. It is asked, What became of this library? In the 9th century, Kellach, abbot of I, was obliged to fly to Ireland for shelter against the Danes. If the barbarians had the library in their power, no doubt they would destroy it. But after this period, Scotch historians mention the library of I, and their borrowing books from it. At the Reformation, the MSS. of I were in part carried to the Scotch colleges of Doway, or to Rome, at least the chartularies, and such as were esteemed most valuable by the monks. It is said, that some of the MSS. were carried to Inveraray, and that a Duke of Montague found some of them in the shops there, used as snuff paper. If any of them were in the library of the family of Argyll, the persecution that family underwent, in the time of Charles the II. accounts for none being there now.

in these districts. Every farm in the parish having a share of the shore, except 4 small ones, is of great consequence, not only as to fishing, but for the easy procuring of sea-ware and shell, and which are the general manures of the parish. The cattle also, in winter and spring, go to the shores and eat sea-ware, which is no small advantage in times of snow. But the parish labours under many disadvantages. There are no bridges and no roads, except what is made in Ross by the statute-labour. This is a misfortune that is severely felt, both by the inhabitants and by strangers. This, and the want of stage-houses upon the road, makes travelling disagreeable, and often dangerous. The residing settlers have made some enclosures upon the farms where they reside; the rest of the parish is open, except the Duke of Argyll's property, where some farms are nearly enclosed, and something done upon all of them. This want of enclosures makes herding very expensive to the tenant, and hurtful to the cattle, as they are often hounded with dogs, and cannot pasture at ease. It is true, some farms in the parish cannot be enclosed, but at an enormous expense; but these are few in number. The parish being out of the track of shipping, and in a manner sequestered from the rest of Mull by high mountains, except one pass through Glenmore, leading to Torafay, (and even this, without a road or bridge) is severely felt.

Languages.—The language spoken in the parish is Gaelic, which was reckoned very pure, by its vicinity to I. By the schools in the parish, some of the natives speak the English; and such as serve in the Low Country speak the dialect of the places where they serve.

Three

Three from the Low Country, are the only persons in the parish that understand the English only *.

Church, Stipend, Schools, Poor, &c.—There are 4 places of worship in the parish, one in each district already mentioned; but there has been no church in any of them since the Reformation, except in Rofs. In every other district, divine worship is at the side of a hill. The Church of Rofs is also ruinous, and has been condemned by the presbytery of Mull, who passed a decree for re-building it, and another church in Kilfinichen in Airdmeanach; but none is as yet built. There is no manse. The incumbent lives in a house built by himself, upon a small farm he rents from the Duke of Argyll. The stipend is 80l. besides the glebe. The glebe measures near 70 acres, including moss, &c. and may be worth about 10l. a-year. All the parishioners are of the Established church. The Duke of Argyll is patron.—Such an extensive parish requires many schools; there are, however, but 2, the parochial school, and a charity school. The charity school is stationed in I. The schoolmaster is now superannuated, being considerably

* All the names of places are Gaelic, except 2 or 3 that are Danish. The name I has been explained already. Rofs, signifies a point of land jutting out into sea, or a peninsula. Brolafs, a grey ridge, or a rugged ridge. Airdmeanach, the middle point, or middle quarter: it got this name from its lying in the middle between the points of Rofs and Freisnish. Gribun, clayey bottom. Lochlahick, the muddy or clayey loch. Lochscridain takes its name from a farm called Scridain: It is also called Lochleven, from the elms that grew on its sides. Innis-Kenneth, the island of Kenneth: Innis is corruptly called Inch in various parts of Scotland. Loch-caol, the narrow loch. Poll-tairve, the Bull Pond; but commonly called the Bull Hole. Bellach-na-co-sheilg, is a pass near the marches of Rofs and Brolafs, where the people of the 2 districts met at their hunting expeditions; from which circumstance it took its name.

sibly past 70 years, upwards of 40 of which he taught a charity school. The Society have given him an assistant. He has the grafs of 2 cows from the Duke of Argyll, and a piece of ground for potatoes and other crop. The parochial school is stationed in Rofs, near the only church in the parish; but such is the wretched state of this school, that the schoolmaster is a man who, upon examination, was refused by Dr. Kemp to be the assistant to the charity school of I. The school stent of the parish, is 8l. 6s. 8d. Sterling yearly*.

There are, at an average, 60 upon the poors list. These may be said to depend entirely upon the humanity of the people. The collections upon Sundays, and a few fines, are the only funds the session have for their relief; and these do not exceed 5l. or 6l. yearly.

Post Office.—There is no post office in the parish. The nearest post office is Arofs, which is at the distance of 20 long computed miles from the point of Rofs. To
this

* The Duke of Argyll pays his share, which is between 4l. and 5l.; but the rest of the heritors pay none, pleading as an excuse, that the school is of no service to their properties. There was a charity school stationed in Airdmeanach for 2 years; but as the heritors of that district did not accommodate the schoolmaster according to the regulations of the Society, the school was withdrawn. The people of the parish wish to have schools; but cannot support them without assistance. There are at present boys teaching in different corners of the parish; but it would be better to want teachers who can hardly read themselves. The incumbent, who, though within a mile of the parochial school, was obliged to get a teacher from the Low Country, is joined by many of his neighbours (who did not choose to have their children under the tuition of the parochial schoolmaster) in building a school-house, and in paying some of the tutor's wages.

this office most of the letters directed to the parish come *.

Character of the Inhabitants, &c.—The people, in general, are sober, industrious, humane, and ready enough to follow any branch of business that they see clearly is for their advantage. The ground they have to labour, and the method of labouring, show their industry and perseverance. The number of poor they support, shows their humanity; as also 2 shipwrecks that happened within these 6 years. In both instances, the poor sailors were treated with kindness and humanity. One of these vessels was wrecked in Ross; and it is very remarkable, that a quantity of cork, very useful, and much wanted in the country for their nets, scattered over a strand of upwards of a mile in extent, was not touched by the inhabitants, though many were too poor to buy it, even if they had an opportunity. It has been mentioned already, the attempts made by the Duke of Argyll to employ the idle hands in the country, in fishing and quarrying of marble. He has now sent flax among them to be spun; and as both men and women see their interests very clearly, it is to be hoped, that his Grace's humane intentions will, by degrees, have the effects he meant.

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* A few get their letters by Auchnacraig, which is at the distance of 24 computed miles from the point of Ross. For some years back, the private gentlemen in Ross and Brolais engaged a man, whom we call a runner, to go once a week to Aros; but this year several of these gentlemen going to the army, and others of them having removed to some other parts of Mull, there is no runner; the few gentlemen remaining not being able to employ one, the letters come, as opportunity offers, from Aros post office. They sometimes lie there for a month. There is no way of remedying this evil, but by establishing a post office at the head of Lochscridair; but perhaps this would be too much expense for any benefit the public at large could receive from it. Any letters directed to residents in the parish, ought to be by Aros.

They are by no means superstitious, yet they still retain some opinions handed down by their ancestors perhaps from the times of the Druids. It is believed by them, that the spirit of the last person that was buried watches round the churchyard till another is buried, to whom he delivers his charge. A man in I, of the name of Mr. Innis, touches for the King's evil. He is the 7th son; and it is firmly believed in the country that he has this gift of curing. He touches, or rubs over the sore with his hand, 2 Thursdays and 2 Sundays successively, in the name of the Trinity, and says, "It is God that cures." He asks nothing for his trouble. It is believed, if he did, there would be no cure. He is often sent for out of the country; and though he asks nothing, yet the patients, or their friends, make him presents. He is perfectly illiterate, and says, he does not know how the cure is effected, but that God is pleased to work it in consequence of his touch.—They are accustomed to the sea from their infancy; and many of them go to the Clyde, where they make expert and hardy seamen. Numbers also enlisted in different Highland corps. Sixty men from Ross and I enlisted in the late West Fencible regiment, raised by the Duke of Argyll, besides what enlisted in the 74th, raised under his Grace's patronage, and also in the 2d battalion of the 71st. In spring 1793, 56 left the same districts, to the Argyllshire Fencibles, commanded by the Marquis of Lorn; besides, a number of fine growing boys, were ready to go to the same corp, but could not be taken, as they were not fit for immediate service. From the rest of the parish, many followed Major M'Lean of Lochbuy, and Captain M'Lean of Kinlochluine, to the same corp. But it is to be observed, that it is only with humane proprietors, and under whom
they

they live easily, that they are disposed to inlist. Such has been the general good behaviour of the inhabitants, that none have suffered capital punishment in the memory of any person living; nor has any been confined in jail for any crime that is remembered, except one man in summer 1793, who is supposed to be a fraudulent bankrupt. Improvements go on but slowly, but still something is done. There was but one slated house in the parish when the present incumbent was admitted in 1780; now there are 3 upon the Duke of Argyll's property, built by tacksmen, and 3 built by residing heritors. The common tenants also upon the Duke of Argyll's property, lodge more comfortably as to houses than usual. It may be reckoned among the improvements of the country, the hills now being stocked with sheep, and the low marshy grounds being, in general, stocked with black cattle entirely. Moss and marshy ground is unfavourable to sheep; hills and mountains are better suited to them than to black cattle.

D d 2

NUMBER

N. B. In a letter to Sir John Sinclair, which accompanied the above Statistical Account, Mr. Campbell mentions, "That *EDINBURGH* is called *Dun-monaidh*, in Highland tales. I thought it was called so by tale-makers only, till some years ago, I had occasion to get Bishop Carlwell of Argyll's translation of the Service of the Church of Scotland into Gaelic, out of the Duke of Argyll's library at Inveraray. It is also there called *Dun-monaidh*, which signifies the "Hill of the Moor." The book was published at Edinburgh soon after the Reformation.

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF KINFAUNS.

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,
PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. Mr. GEORGE CHAPMAN.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE name seems to have been the same in ancient as in modern times, and is probably of Gaelic origin. It is deduced by some from *ceann*, head or end, and *fanus**, high ground, or the declivity of a mountain. In this sense, it is supposed to refer to the termination, or rather the interruption, on the W. corner of the parish, of those hills which run across the country, towards Stirling, from the Red Head in Angus†.

This

* Hence, probably, the name of Fauns, in Lauderdale, so celebrated for its oats, originated.

† Others resolve Kinfauns into *Ceann* or *Ken*, and *fan*, an obsolete word, signifying hollow. This derivation implies, the head of the flat
of

This parish begins about a mile and a half below Perth, and runs for 3 or 4 miles along the northern banks of the Tay, forming an irregular figure of above 5 miles long, and between 2 and 3 broad.

Surface and Soil.—The surface is considerably diversified by level and rising grounds, by wood and water. The lands on the banks of the Tay are flat. On the western boundary, at a small distance from the river, rises a ridge of hills, whose tops are covered with extensive plantations. Of these hills, Kinnoul is the most remarkable. It lies partly in the parish of that name, and partly in the parish of Kinfauns; and presents to the S. a large abrupt front of rock, of a striking appearance, especially from the old post-road, which went close to its base. On this side, the ascent is exceedingly steep, and its height is 632 feet above the level of the Tay. The summit projects in rugged cliffs of a feamy texture, which being gradually loosened by the frost and rain, have sometimes fallen in large masses, with prodigious force, into the plain below. About 27 years ago, a farm house, near the foot of the hill, was almost destroyed by one of these masses of rock, and a woman instantly killed. On account of this accident, the farmstead was removed to a proper distance from such a dangerous situation. The hills afford variety of delightful prospects.

5

or plain; and is also applicable to the situation of the country. At the foot of the hills now mentioned, the parish lies in a valley or hollow, which gradually opens, in an easterly direction, into the plain of the Carse of Gowrie. These are the most plausible opinions respecting the origin of the name; and as opinions only, they are given. But, even these suggest, that certainty is not always to be expected, in deductions from a language which, it is allowed, often affords scope for fancy and conjecture.

prospects. From some places is beheld the course of the Tay, for 18 or 20 miles; a noble piece of water, and a scene often enlivened by numbers of vessels under sail, and fishing boats. From the same eminences, the windings of the Earn, through the mouth of that pleasant strath or valley to which it gives name, are also a beautiful object. From another point, opens at once to the view, the whole fertile plain of the Carse of Gowrie, bounded by a sweep of hills, which fall back on the N., and by the Frith of Tay on the S.; the prospect terminating to the E. with the steeple of Dundee, Broughty Castle, and the mouth of the Tay, where it enters the German Ocean.

The soil is various. The banks of the river are covered with a strong clay, capable, with proper culture, of carrying the heaviest crops. The grounds rising towards the hills consist of an easy black mould, in many places deep and rich, even at a considerable height. In the level part of the parish, on the E. side, the same kind of soil is, in some places, mixed with clay; in others, with sand. The lands under cultivation are, in general, good and fertile: the uncultivated parts are mostly covered with plantations; so that there is not much waste ground within the parish.

Air.—The air is exceedingly pure and healthful. The dryness of the grounds, and the strong currents of westerly wind which often blow, as through a funnel, between the hills of Kinnoul and Moredun, probably contribute to purify the air, and to render it salubrious. No local distempers are known to prevail here; nor are epidemical infections either common, or remarkably fatal.

Tay

Tay and Salmon Fishings.—Besides a few rivulets within the parish, the Tay washes its southern boundary for 3 or 4 miles; and is here navigable for ships, cutter built, of 100 tons: Dutch or flat-bottomed vessels of above 200 tons can go up to Perth. Having received, in its course, the Dochart, Lochy, Lion, Tumble, Gary, Bran, Isla and Almond, all considerable rivers, besides many inferior streams, the Tay carries here a body of fresh water, far superior to any other river in the island *. The neap tides rise 6 feet; the spring ones from 9 to 10½. But could the channel be contracted by an embankment, especially upon the large plain, which is overflowed for about 10 miles, between Inchyra and Invergowrie, the tide would rise much higher, and flow with greater rapidity; whilst large tracks of valuable land would be recovered for the purposes of agriculture. This undertaking, however, is of such magnitude and enormous expense, that it can only be the work of ages.

The Tay abounds with excellent salmon, and fine trout of different kinds, particularly 2 species of sea-trout, the white and red; the latter of which is reckoned the stronger flavoured, the former more delicate. They weigh from 2 to 6 lb. The large bull trout is sometimes found from 16 to 30 lb. and upwards. The salmon fishings in the Tay are an object of considerable importance, and furnish a valuable article of trade to the town of Perth. The rent of the whole river, including the late rises on the fishings, is, upon the most authentic and respectable information, not below 7000l. Sterling. This is a great sum, when it is considered how rapidly it has arisen almost from nothing †.

The

* The Earn falls also into the Tay 2 or 3 miles below this parish.

† For many years after the beginning of this century, the fishings were

The fishings upon the Kinfauns estate alone, extending between 2 and 3 miles along the N. side of the river only, and which are almost entirely in this parish, did not, in 1740, bring 100l. yearly of free rent. In 1763 they rose to 1000l.; in 1782 to 1400l.; and they are now (November 1793) let in a new lease for 2560l. Besides these, there are other fishings within the parish, to the amount of 450l., making altogether upwards of 3000l. annually. There are from 70 to 80 men, and about 40 boats, employed on these fishings. The salmon are carried to market fresh, pickled, and salted. Very few, of late years, have been salted; a good many are kitted or pickled; but by far the greatest quantity is run up fresh, in ice, to London, where they are now often eaten almost as fresh as on the banks of the Tay. The plan of preserving the fish in ice was first suggested by George Dempster, Esq. of Dunnichen, the late public-spirited member for the neighbouring district of boroughs, and has been attended with the greatest success*.

Roads.

were let along with the contiguous farms, and were of very little value either to the proprietors or tacksmen. They did not then begin to fish till the seed-time was finished; and, by consequence, the most valuable part of the season was entirely lost; whilst scarcely any other market was known besides home consumption, which did not then bring 1d. the pound. Since that period, the bed of the river has been cleared of all obstructions to the nets, and the fishings have been disjoined from the farms; circumstances which rendered them an interesting concern, and worthy of attention. A demand from the Catholick States, along with the Mediterranean, for salted fish, was one mean of raising their price. This was followed by a brisk trade from the London market, which has greatly increased the value of the fish to the tacksmen, and of the rents to the proprietors.

* The price of salmon, in spring, is sometimes 1s., sometimes 9d. the lb.; in June 6d.; and in July and August 5d. About 25 or 30 years ago, it sold for 1½d., and often for 1d. the lb. The close-season in the Tay is from August 26. to the 11th of December.

Roads.—An excellent turnpike road, opened lately from Perth to Dundee, enters the parish on the W., and runs nearly its whole length. The leading principle in its formation, is to avoid pulls, which has been so effectually accomplished, that it goes almost upon a level between these towns. The distance has also been reduced; so that travellers, while they pass along an easy road, and through a fine country, save nearly as much in horse or chaise hire, as is equal to the expense of the tolls. The proposal of a turnpike road met with universal approbation, so obvious were its advantages. The cross roads in this parish are already tolerable, and will probably be still improving, by having the statute work chiefly applied to their repair and support. The statute labour is here sometimes commuted, sometimes taken in kind.

Farms and Agriculture.—The farms, in general, run from 50 or 60 to 100 acres. A few are larger. Excepting gentlemens enclosures, for their own use, there are scarcely any in the parish; nor indeed do they prevail in this tract of country, lying immediately along the N. side of the Tay, or through the Carse of Gowrie. As these lands are nearly on the level of the sea, and sheltered from the N. by a ridge of neighbouring hills, their climate is naturally warm, and their harvest early. The soil in this parish and district, is more adapted for producing grain of all kinds, than for pasture. Very little of it, therefore, is employed for this purpose. On the lighter grounds, some flax, turnip, and potatoes, are raised for private use; but, upon the whole, this is a corn country.

Our system of agriculture, as in most other parts of Scotland, has been exceedingly improved within these

20 or 30 years past. The distinction of outfield and infield no longer exists ; most of the grounds are cleared of stones, broom and furze ; the ridges are reduced and straightened, wet lands drained, and a far superior tillage introduced. Artificial grasses have long been sown to great advantage ; lime, and other manures, have been applied ; and summer fallow is become more frequent ; all of which, with a proper rotation of cropping, have produced the best effects. It is, however, still to be regretted, that though these improvements are well understood, yet they are sometimes, particularly in cropping regularly, but partially observed. The rotation reckoned best, is, 1st, Fallow, dressed with lime, or dung, or both ; 2dly, Wheat ; 3dly, Pease, and green crops, to prepare the ground for, 4thly, Barley, sown down with grass seeds ; 5thly, Hay ; 6thly, Oats. This succession preserves the land in high order, and makes the returns much larger. Another course, also in practice, is, 1st, Pease ; 2dly, Wheat ; 3dly, Barley ; 4thly, Grass ; 5thly, Oats. This answers tolerably well in light lands, but is unsuitable to clay. Farms are generally cast into 5 or 6 divisions, and one of these allotted to each kind of grain, a hay crop and fallow ; but, of late years, wheat has greatly exceeded this proportion, and, instead of being a fifth or sixth, is nearer a fourth or third of the whole produce.

Eight bolls of wheat and barley upon the acre, are considered as a tolerable crop ; 9 and 10 a good one ; but 12 bolls of wheat upon fallow, and the same quantity and more of oats after grass, are frequently obtained. Beans in drill yield 10 or 12 bolls, sometimes a good deal more. They are 3 times hand-hoed ; the expense of which is about a guinea an acre. But, it is to be observed, with respect to returns in general, that it is not easy to fix
any

any standard, as they must vary greatly according to the nature of the soil and season; and, in a very particular manner, according to the pains, manure, and culture bestowed*.

There is scarcely any land in the parish below 20s. the acre. The greater part gives 25s. and 30s.; a good deal rents from 30s. to 40s., and some of it is as high as 50s. Two remaining years of a lease of a farm, belonging to Lord Gray, were lately bought up at 3l. 10s, and upwards, the acre. The present medium rent of land may be about 2l. 8s. or 1l. 10s. the acre.

A great deal more grain is raised in the parish than serves itself. Wheat and barley are exported to a considerable amount; and the farmers can now sometimes spare a few oats and pease, with a good deal of hay for the market. These are, indeed, the staple commodities upon which they must depend for their rents, and the support of their families.

The grain in this part of the country, is generally of an excellent quality, and the prices are proportionably high. Wheat, for the 2 last crops, sold from 21s. to 24s.; barley at 18s.; oats at 15s. and 16s.; pease at 12s. and 13s. the boll, Linlithgow measure; oat meal sold from 16s. to 18s. the boll, of 8 stones Dutch weight. The kinds of ploughs used here, are commonly of Small's construction, drawn by 2 horses: their number is about 56 or 58. There are between 60 and 70 carts, exclusive of corn-carts used in harvest.

E e 2

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* The seed-time begins as soon as the weather admits in March, and closes with May. Wheat is sown from the middle of September till the end of October, and even later on light land, if the season be dry. The harvest generally commences with the first week of September, sometimes in the end of August.

The general contents of the parish, are about 3780 Scotch acres; of which 2520 are arable, excepting a very small proportion. The remaining 1260 acres, are under plantations. These run along the tops and front of the hills, and consist mostly of Scotch fir, with larches, beech, oak, and other forest trees intermixed.

Horses and Black Cattle.—As no black cattle are employed here in operations of husbandry, not many, excepting cows, are reared. Some young stots, or winterings, as they are commonly called, are bought in for eating up the fodder in winter, and are sold, or sent off to graze in summer. Horses are, for the most part, bought; few are reared. Besides what gentlemen keep for their own private use, the number of sheep is but small. Cows and cattle, at present, amount to 400: there are 186 horses, and about 90 sheep.

Population.—There is good reason to believe, that this parish is not now so populous as formerly. The rapid success of the manufactures, which has drawn the people from the country to the towns, is one great cause of depopulation. Uniting small possessions, or crofts, into farms, is another; and the disuse of cottagers, as farming servants, has also contributed to the same effect. It has become much the practice, of late years, to employ unmarried men as farming servants; of course cottagers, and their houses, have, in some degree, disappeared*.

3

Abstract

* This mode may be attended with some trivial advantages; but how far it is founded in sound policy, may be greatly questioned. Some of its disadvantages are obvious. Scarcity of hands, advance on the price of labour,

Abstract, for Ten Years, of

	Baptisms,	Marriages,	and Burials.
1783,	25	4	6
1784,	7	1	7
1785,	13	1	6
1786,	4	2	1
1787,	20	4	2
1788,	4	3	6
1789,	13	1	4
1790,	5	2	2
1791,	13	1	4
1792,	11	1	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	105 Aver. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$.	20 Average 2.	42 Aver. near 5

These are the statements in the parish record. But it is to be observed, in explanation of the above, that wherever there are sectaries in a parish, the entries upon the register of the establishment are not only irregularly made, and the numbers of the different years thus rendered disproportionate, but they are sometimes neglected altogether.

STATISTICAL

labour, and the want of a healthy, robust set of men to recruit our fleets and armies, in any national emergency, are natural consequences of a thin population. In harvest 1792, before the manufactures met with any check, journeymen weavers, who used formerly to reap in harvest, and earn 2l. 4s. and 2l. 5s. for 3 weeks labour, refused to work under 2s. and 2s. 6d. a-day, which they could make at the loom. A set of healthy cottagers, and their families, would have prevented such hardship, and rendered most essential service to their masters at that critical season.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Number of souls, by return made to Dr. Webster, 639	Clergyman, - - -	1
—of houses in 1772, 152, containing 710 souls.	Weavers and their apprentices, 27	
—of houses in 1793, 133, containing 628 about 4½.	Shoemakers, - - -	7
Of these, under 10 years old, are, - - - 130	Wrights, - - -	2
From 18 to 20, 106	Smiths, - - -	4
20 to 50, 285	Tailors, - - -	3
50 to 70, 98	Cooper, - - -	1
Above 70, 9	Seceders, - - -	72
Males, - - - 507	Servants, male 50, female 38, 88	
Females, - - - 321	Farms, besides some crops, 30	
628	Ale-houses, - - -	3
Heritors, - - - 5	Horses, - - -	186
Farmers families, - - 27	Cows and black cattle, about 400	
Widowers 3, widows 17, 20	Sheep, - - -	90
	Ploughs, - - -	56
	Carts, - - -	60—70
	Number of Scotch acres, 3780	
	Valued rent, 5938l. 13s. 4d. Scots	
	Real rent, including 3000l. for fishings, about 5800l. Sterling.	

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church is an old building, without any date. It was repaired in 1789, and is now a decent and comfortable place of worship. The manse was built in 1739, and repaired in 1769. The stipend consists of 4 bolls wheat, 67 meal, 41 barley, and 27l. 10s. of money, with a glebe of 4 acres. There are 5 heritors in the parish, 3 of whom reside occasionally, and 2 constantly. The Earl of Mansfield is patron.—The school and school-house were built in 1769, and are in tolerable repair. The schoolmaster's salary, paid by the heritors, was lately augmented by them, from 100 to 200 merks. From his office of session-clerk, and as precentor, he may have about 4l., and nearly as much from his school-fees; making altogether about

about 17l. or 18l. annually.—There are no begging poor in the parish. The number upon the roll is commonly from 7 to 10. They are supplied by the weekly collections, and usual casualties, which may be together 12l. or 13l. yearly; and the interest of about 500l. capital, which has arisen partly from pious donations, partly from savings when the times admitted. From these funds they are provided, without any assessment, in a regular monthly allowance, and also with clothes, and some coals for the winter *.

Language.—The language of this parish and corner is Saxon, intermixed with Scottish words and expressions; attended, however, by little or no provincial accent or dialect. Though this part of the country is not at a great distance from the Highlands, yet neither Gaelic words nor accent are known amongst the natives below Perth. Very few names of places are Erse; but a great number are Scotch or Saxon.

Antiquities.—In the Castle of Kinfauns, is kept a large old sword, probably made near 500 years ago, and to be used by both hands. It is shaped like a broad sword, and is 5 feet 9 inches long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad at the hilt, and of a proportionable thickness, with a round knob

* Besides these stated supplies, liberal private charities are given occasionally to families in distress. This temporary relief is productive of the best consequences, by preventing the laborious poor from falling into total ruin, and becoming public burdens. As long as the common people can be preserved from being known objects of charity, a decent pride excites their industry; but this soon disappears, when once they are regular pensioners on a parish roll. The effects of harvest 1782 were, comparatively, but little felt here. As the funds are plentiful, the poor were well supplied, without any part of the aid allowed by government.

knob at the upper end, near 8 inches in circumference. This terrible weapon bears the name of *Charteris's sword*; and probably belonged to Sir Thomas Charteris, commonly called Thomas de Longueville, once proprietor of the estate of Kinfauns. Sir Thomas Charteris, *alias* Longueville, was a native of France, and of an ancient family in that country. If credit can be given to accounts of such remote date, when he was at the court of Philip le Bel, in the end of the 13th century, he had a dispute with, and killed a French nobleman in the king's presence. He escaped, but was refused pardon.

Having, for several years, infested the seas as a pirate, known by the name of the *Red Beaver*, from the colour of the flags he carried on his ships, in May 1301 or 1302 (by Adamson's Chronology), Sir William Wallace, in his way to France, encountered and took him prisoner. At Wallace's intercession, the French King conferred on him a pardon, and the honour of knighthood. He accompanied Wallace on his return to Scotland, and was ever after his faithful friend, and aiding in his exploits. Upon that hero's being betrayed, and carried to England, Sir Thomas Charteris retired to Lochmaben, where he remained till Robert Bruce began to assert his right to the crown of Scotland. He joined Bruce; and was, if we may believe Adamson, who refers to Barbeur, the first who followed that king into the water, at the taking of Perth, January 8. 1313.

Bruce rewarded his bravery, by giving him lands in the neighbourhood of Perth, which appear to have been those of Kinfauns, and which continued in the family of Charteris for many years. It is to this ancient knight, and to the antique sword above mentioned, that Adam-

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son refers, in these lines (Book VI.) of his Muse's Threnodie.

————Kinfauns, which Thomas Longueville
Some time did hold, whose ancient sword of steel
Remains unto this day, and of that land
Is chiefest evident.

About 40 years ago, upon opening the burying vault under the aile of the church of Kinfauns, erected by this family, there was found a head-piece, or kind of helmet, made of several folds of linen, or some strong stuff, painted over with broad stripes of blue and white; which seems to have been part of the fictitious armour, wherein the body of Thomas Longueville, or Charteris, had been deposited *.

The estate of Kinfauns afterward belonged to a gentleman of the name of Carnegie, of the Northesk family; from whom it passed to that of Blair, whose heiress was married to John Lord Gray, father of the present Lord.

There is also in the house of Kinfauns, which stands on an elevated situation, overlooking the Tay, an iron flag, or vane, 2 feet long and 1 foot broad, turning upon a staff of the same metal, 8 feet high. It has the date, 1688, cut in the middle, and was wont to be placed on the top of the castle. This was a mark, or badge, of an heritable office, or power of admiralty over the river, annexed to the estate of Kinfauns, for preserving the fishing, and punishing all trespasses committed in destroying the salmon. In a charter under the great seal, in

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* *Vide* Historical Annotations on Elind Harry's Wallace, published at Perth a few years ago.

the year 1671, the old jurisdiction is explained and confirmed; and, according to the tradition of the country, it was acknowledged by all vessels passing in the Tay, by a salute, or lowering of their colours to the castle. This power extends from Drumlie Sands below Dundee to the heart of the river, and entitles the family of Kinfauns to a salmon, annually, out of every fishing boat on the Tay*.

Prices and Wages.—The price of provisions has risen greatly of late years, and is here regulated by the Perth market †.

Situation

* The charter, after confirming the lands and barony of Kinfauns, adds, "and also the heritable office of keeping the said water of Tay, upon both sides of the same, within the hail bounds thereof, beginning at that part of the same called Drumlie Sands, until the head of the same water, and all other waters, floods, and burns running into the said water, within the hail bounds thereof; and with power to seek and search all fishers, and other persons whatsoever, who can be found and apprehended, taking smolts, kipper, or salmon, with cruives, or any other manner of way, within said bounds or parts thereof, within forbidden time."

It also grants power to hold courts, amerciate and punish for all such offences. And further, "All other privileges, liberties, immunities, fees, and duties belonging to said heritable office; and specially with the fee of one salmon yearly, to be uplifted and taken in all time coming, furth of ilk an boat, wherewith salmon shall happen to be taken in the said river of Tay, upon both sides thereof within the bounds aforesaid"

† Chickens, which 25 or 30 years ago sold at 2d., are now 4d. and 6d. a piece; grown poultry from 1s. to 1s. 3d. each; eggs are 6d. the dozen; beef in autumn 3½d., or 4d., in spring 5d., sometimes 6d. the pound; mutton from 3d. to 4d. in autumn, and 5d. in the spring; veal and lamb are commonly 6d., all Amsterdam weight; geese sell at 2s. 6d. and 3s.; turkeys at 4s. 6d. and 5s.; pigs at 5s., and all other provisions in the same proportion. Though this is a rich country, yet vivres are, in general, high; and even some articles, such as eggs and poultry, are affected by the Edinburgh market.

Situation and Character of the People.—A remarkable change has taken place within these 30 years past, in the dress, manners, and cleanliness of the people; the natural consequence of the influx of money. The great rise of wages has considerably meliorated the situation of such as depend upon their labour for the support of their families. And were the houses of cottagers, and of those in the inferior ranks of life better, it would be a vast addition to their comfort. Some excellent ones have been lately built by proprietors. If some instances of more straitened circumstances occur amongst the poorer people, yet they do not seem to produce discontent. It is not known that any have died of want. None, for many years back, have been destitute of employment; and there have been no emigrations. No person, in the memory of the oldest man alive, has been tried for any crime, or banished.

The people are rather above middle size; they are healthy, and of a good looking, decent appearance. Their attendance upon public worship is regular; their ideas of religion are rational.

Advantages.—This parish and district derive great advantage from the turnpike road lately made between Perth and Dundee; and from their vicinity to a navigable river. By the last of these, immediate access is opened

The yearly wages of a ploughman, or farming servant, have risen from 4*l.* and 3*l.* to 8, 9, and 10 guineas; those of an upper servant to 12*l.*, and often more. Cottagers employed as farming servants are paid nearly in the same proportion, after making deduction for their houses, and for land, if they possess any. The wages of women servants in farm houses, are 3*l.*; of a house carpenter a-day, 1*s.* 8*d.*; of a mason, 2*s.* 6*d.* and 1*s.* 8*d.*; of a tailor, with victuals, 6*d.* and 8*d.*; of a common labourer, 1*s.*, without victuals.

opened to the sea, and to every port around the island. Lime, and other manures, come by water, close to the lands of the inhabitants. By the same easy conveyance, their grain is carried to market, and delivered with little trouble and expense. But one of the most comfortable effects of the river, is its furnishing, from the coasts of the Frith of Forth, a regular supply of coal, which is the fuel of this country, and which, till of late years, was brought in plenty, and sold at a moderate rate. The usual price was 4s. the boll, of 50 stones English weight, or 800 weight of 112 pounds each. This is the weight of the boll at Dundee, and in the Tay below Perth: There the boll is only 40 stones. Within these few years, however, a most unaccountable dearth and scarcity of coal has taken place in this corner, as well as in other parts of the country. But it is to be hoped, that the late act of parliament, taking off the duty coastwise will, in time, help to remove this hardship, by introducing coal from England, on reasonable terms.

NUMBER

N U M B E R X I V .

P A R I S H O F K I L F I N A N .

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ARGYLL, PRESBYTERY OF
DUNOON.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER M'FARLANE.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE parish of Kilfinan derives its name from St. Finan, a saint of the 7th century, and a disciple of the great Columba, abbot of St. Iona or I, near the island of Mull, and signifies, the church and burying-place dedicated to St Finan. It is 15 miles long, by 3, 4, 5, and, in some places, near 6 miles broad. It is bounded on the W. and N. W. by Lochfine, on the S. by the sea, which separates it from the island of Arran, supposed to be from 5 to 6 leagues over. The parish is divided by a small water that runs past the church, on the S. side of it, into Lochfine, into 2 unequal parts. The southern division is called Kerriff or Kerry, which is a Gaelic word, that signifies a quarter or fourth part of
any

any thing ; and as it is by far the most extensive division, and the church standing upon it, the whole parish often goes by the name of the parish of the Ke-ry, and is fully as well known in the neighbourhood by that name, as by its real one ; but it is never written so. The northern division is called Otter, which is also a Gaelic word, descriptive of a shallow place, over which runs a gentle current ; and accordingly this division of the parish is so called from a most beautiful sand bank, which juts out into Lochfine, in a serpentine form, near the seat of Mr. Campbell of Otter, proprietor of the whole division but one farm. This bank is 1800 yards long, from water-mark to its remotest extremity at low water, and forms, with the land on the S. side, an oblique, and on the N. an obtuse angle. In time of spring tides, it is entirely covered at high-water, and about 3 hours after the turn of the tide, the whole appears to within a few yards of its extremity ; and from its length, narrowness, and form, makes a very uncommon and pleasant appearance. It seems to be an encroachment of the sea upon the land, which, from its nature, could give it little opposition, being low, level. and channelly. On the N. side of the bank, where seems to have been the ancient channel of the loch, the water is very deep : on the S. side, where, according to conjecture, the surface has been peeled off by the united force of storms, and a strong current, it is very shallow ; ebbs a great way out in time of spring tides, and gives opportunity to the inhabitants in the neighbourhood to gather oysters, spout fish, mussels, and other various kinds of shell fish, which are there to be found in great perfection and abundance.

Soil and Surface.—Any variety that is to be found in the soil of this parish, is evidently the natural consequence of different situations. In some few flats, out of the reach of running waters, and not far distant from the sea, yet so far as not to have ever been overflowed by it, is to be seen a fine black mould lying upon a gravel bed, not deep, but abundantly fertile, and when properly laid out, produces excellent grafs. In some low flats, near the level of the sea, and in all flat valleys, where running waters have, in the progress of time, traversed the ground by shifting their course (which in this country they continually do where they run through arable land), the soil is light and channelly, requires manure very frequently, but gives a sure and fertile, though not a very heavy crop. Near the S. point of the parish is to be found, in a few places, a thin stratum of black clay covering a gravelly bottom, and gives a crop light or heavy, according as it is deep and dry, or light and sour, but never ripens early. All the inland farms are cold and bleak, not so fit either for pasturage or tillage as those upon the coast. The crops upon them are generally as heavy, but not near so fertile, and are always considerably later in ripening than those upon the low grounds. All ground upon a declivity (or what is commonly called hanging ground), is very poor soil, the substance being washed out of it by the rains.

The surface is rugged, and the shore equally so, being all rocky, a few bays excepted; yet it produces little sea-weed for kelp. The only kelp which the present incumbent ever heard of being made in the parish, is a little that is yearly manufactured about the S. point,
near

near the present seat of the family of Lamont, and upon the Kyles of Bute.

Hills, Lakes, Rivers, Woods, &c.—Although there are many hills in this parish, there are none of remarkable height; the most considerable are those which divide this from the parish of Glendaruel. They are all mossy, and consequently barren. Heath and fog being their principal produce, is, in general, withered and weather-beaten. The most of them, however, produce one species of grass, though not in great abundance, which is very useful for cattle in the latter end of the season, particularly in spring, when provender generally turns scarce; I mean moor-bent, which is so hard and durable in its nature, that the severest winter has scarcely any other effect upon it, than to discolour it a little. Sheep are very fond of it in spring, and especially winterers, that is, cattle which are not housed at all, but are fed without in closes all the season over; and it is supposed to give them strength and vigour, sooner than the finest grass upon the low ground.

There are several small lakes, the largest of them not much exceeding half a mile long; and all abound in yellow trout of no great size. There are 4 waters, and as many beautiful bays; but those to which nature seems to have been most partial, are the bays of Kilfinan and Achlick, more especially the former, supposed by many to be one of the prettiest situations upon Lochfine. Upon these waters, there is, in times of rain, plenty of yellow trout, weighing from 1 to 6 lb. weight. It is said, that, some years ago, salmon of 16 lb. weight was often killed upon the waters of Kilfinan, and grilse very frequently, *i. e.* salmon that is supposed to want a year
or

or two of coming to its full growth. None of these kinds have been seen upon it of late years; however; at least for 12 years past, so far as we could hear of: and what made them disappear, or makes them so shy as to forsake their usual haunt, we are not able to account for, unless it be, that the ancient art of exaggerating is losing ground, and not to be found in such perfection now a-days, among the rising generation; as it was possessed by their fathers.

There is a considerable quantity of natural woods in the parish. They consist mostly of oak, ash, birch, elder, hazle, &c. But the natural plant of the soil seems to be ash; for both the planted and the spontaneous growth of it comes to a degree of perfection and size, that no other tree does; and its quality is, by those who manufacture it in towns for the purposes of fine workmanship, allowed to be superior to any thing of the kind that grows in the Low Country. This, however, may be a sign of the poverty of the soil, and the coldness of the climate; it being a well known fact, that slow growth makes timber fine in the reed, and hard and durable in its nature. In the interior part of the parish, plantations thrive pretty well, and also in the N. district of it, which lies upon Lochsne; as appears by that beautiful grove which surrounds the mansion-house of Mr. Campbell of Otter: but, on the S. point of the parish, where the experiment has been of late fairly tried by Mr. Lamont of Lamont, they do not promise so well, owing, no doubt, to the saline drift that is conveyed by the storms to every part of that neck of land, from the ocean which embraces it.

Climate and Diseases.—In this country, we have abund-

dance of rain, and very changeable weather, as much, perhaps, as in any part of Scotland whatever, more especially for several years past. This, we believe, is owing to the high hills of Arran, those of Sliabh Gail, and many others, with which we are surrounded, although at some distance, which break the clouds, and bring down the rain upon us: These rains generally come with a S. wind, a S. E., or a S. W. wind. With a W. wind, we have generally heavy and frequent showers, but no constant rain. An easterly wind is generally dry, and so is a northerly; and it is rare to see any rain at all with a N. E. wind. The rains often fall very copiously in the months of August and September, and do material injury to our crops, which consist mostly in oats, barley, hay, and potatoes *.

Instances

* Few epidemical diseases are known among us; excepting the small-pox, measles, and hooping-cough. Fevers were, some time ago, very frequent and mortal in this parish, but much less so for several years past. The happy cause of this seems to be, that the people have, in a great measure, discontinued the foolish practice of visiting the sick in great crowds, especially upon Sundays, which, in the last age, was, in this country, considered as the particular business of the day. The intention, no doubt, was good, it being their design to administer comfort to the distressed; but, instead of alleviating, they seldom failed to add to his sufferings: by thronging the house, and corrupting the air, they fed the disorder, and weakened the patient: And what was also very natural to look for, when they retired, it frequently happened, that some of the company carried the contagion along with them: In those days, the universal belief of the lower ranks of people, appears to have been, that there was a fatality in all circumstances in life, that the most trivial circumstances had been foreordained, and that consequently, no person could either accelerate, or escape his fated death. In proportion as they have dropped that idea, and begin to be sensible, that man is left, at least in many things, to the freedom of his own will, and that, as a free agent, he may be instrumental in promoting his own temporal happiness, or multiplying

Instances of Longevity.—Few instances of longevity are recorded in this parish; but this cannot be attributed to the climate, which is abundantly wholesome. It requires no great penetration, however, to find out, at least a very supposable cause, which is, that the last generation have been exceedingly addicted to drinking, owing to their having carried on a ruinous contraband trade with the Isle of Man, to an astonishing extent; the bad effects of which are discoverable in the parish to this day. It was only in the southern district of the parish, viz. the Kerry, that this trade was carried on, and consequently they were then more wealthy, in general, than their neighbours in the northern division; but

G g 2

since

multiplying his misfortunes, they become more cautious in approaching any contagion which seems to them to be connected with danger.

In the course of 40 years back, epidemical fevers made their appearance 3 several times in the parish, and carried off a great number of people. The second visit of this disorder, was about the year 1778, and was very general and deadly over the whole country. The last was in the year 1784, when the disorder entered at the north end of the parish; and being very mortal, continued its progress through almost every farm of that division, called Otter, but did not cross the water at Kilfinan. By all accounts, the disorder was exactly the same at both these last periods, and was so very violent, that, in general, the patient was either carried off, or recovered within 48 hours, after his being seized. People of a plethoric habit, and especially young people, were most frequently attacked.

The blessed discovery of inoculation has been early practised in this parish, and, at all times, with great success; yet, it is much to be regretted, that few of the lower ranks can be persuaded to take the benefit of it. From 3 to 7 years is generally the longest interval between the visits of the measles in this parish. The last was in the year 1789, when a very remarkable circumstance attended it; upwards of 30 adult people, males and females, from 20 to 60 years of age, have been seized with the disorder, while the greatest number of the young children have escaped, some of them even in the very houses, and lying in the bosom of their parents when confined.

since that period, of the inhabitants of the Kerry, the greatest number have been bankrupt by misfortunes ; others, by the habits they acquired, came to poverty ; and being obliged to quit their farms, are succeeded by a complete set of new tenants from the neighbouring parishes ; while the most of the inhabitants of the northern division, occupy the same lands upon which their forefathers lived comfortably for many generations before them,

A few instances of longevity, however, might be mentioned : Archibald M'Laughlane, a native of Otter, and who died in the Kerry, near 30 years ago, was 118 years of age ; and in the harvest immediately before he died, was reckoned the best hay cutter upon the farm of Kilfinan, of which he occupied a part. When young, he was a man of such known bodily strength, that, although he was not quarrelsome himself, whenever a squabble ensued near him, which at that time was frequently the case in the churchyard of Kilfinan, at marriages and funerals, whenever he got notice, he immediately repaired to the spot, and his presence never failed to strike such terror, that both parties were very glad to cease from the strife. On this account, he was often called, as a by-name, Craobh na siochaidh, i. e. the peace-maker. Donald M'Intyre, who died in November 1792, was a native of the parish of Dalavich, in the presbytery of Lorn, and 96 years of age ; and although he had no education, was a very intelligent conversible man, of uncommon memory, knew more of the history of Scotland, than many who had a regular education ; could repeat a very great number of the poems of Ossian, Ullin, Oran, with a great part of the history of those herbes very correctly. He retained his faculties unimpaired, till the very last : and, within 6 days before he died, declared, he never was confined for half an hour
by

by any kind of complaint, and that he did not know what it was to have a headach. He even escaped the small pox, measles, and hooping cough. He was a remarkable instance of industry and sobriety.

Number of Proprietors.—There are 9 proprietors, 6 of whom reside in the parish. The principal heritor is Mr. Lamont of Lamont, who possessed property in Argyllshire for a long period of years. The family resided in the parish of Dunoon, in view of the Clyde, and opposite the burgh of Rothsay, in Bute, until the reign of Charles I., when the then proprietor, Sir James Lamont of Lamont, supported the cause of that unhappy monarch, for which his family seat, the castle of Towart, was taken and destroyed by the Marquis of Argyll*.

Mode of Cultivation.—The tenants in this parish are so much attached to the ancient mode of cultivation, that modern improvements in husbandry can scarcely be said to have found their way to our latitude. The soil seems much better calculated for pasturage than tillage: Hence it is the interest of the tenant to plough his ground very sparingly; and yet, in general, they adopt just the opposite rule, for without allowing it time enough to recover itself after much fatigue, they always plough more than double the quantity they are able properly to manure. Few of the tenants, indeed, understand farming, so as to do justice to their ground; and by far the greatest

* There is in this parish the ruins of an old castle, called Aisgog. It was, at the above period, in the possession of a cadet of that family, who, taking the same side with his chief, had his castle also destroyed, by order of the Marquis. The taking and destroying of these castles, composed part of the indictment, upon which the Marquis was tried and convicted, as appears by the State Trials.

est number, if they should be experienced farmers, want the means of doing it; as they are, in general, poor. There is plenty of excellent limestone in the parish, and convenient enough for the most of them; yet it is rare to see a kiln burnt for the use of the ground. It may be said, indeed, that the inconveniency of peats, and the oppressive tax, until of late, upon coals, is the cause of this; but allowing this to be a good reason, why is not every farm covered with shell-sand, which is found upon the coast in great abundance, and of the very best quality? All the farmers in the parish allow it to be far preferable to lime, yet very few make use of it. The very sea-weed, which is thrown in by the storm upon the shore, is often allowed to rot, where the tide has left it, although it is found to be as good manure for barley, as any that can be made use of. Of late years, indeed, there is one kind of improvement begun, and likely to become very general; I mean, reducing the number of horses in their ploughs, and using carts instead of cars. Formerly they had 4 horses in each plough, the most of them now plough by 3, and many by 2; and it is certain, besides the saving, that the ploughing is much better than it used to be. The only green crops that are raised in the parish, are a few pease, and potatoes in abundance. Summer fallowing is entirely unknown to them. As to these matters, it is thought they judge very right, for the soil is so weak, as not to bear summer fallowing, and the climate is no way favourable to green crops. The only trial that is known to have been made of raising wheat, was by Mr. Lamont of Lamont, who sowed about 3 firlots these two last seasons past, and it answered pretty well. There is not the smallest reason to doubt, that in many parts in this parish,

rich, the soil is capable of carrying wheat, if we knew how to prepare the ground.

Implements of Husbandry.—The Scotch plough is mostly used in this parish, and, in some few places, must continue to be used, where the ground happens to be very unlevel, and full of large stones under the surface. The tenants have no idea of the advantage of clearing away these stones out of their ground; nay, some of them assert, that there is an advantage in having them in it, because they give heat to the ground, and so contribute to manure it. They choose, therefore, to run the risk of breaking their ploughs several times in a season, and have the toil of digging yearly about a stone, where their plough does not reach, rather than remove it once for all, which, in most cases, would not be a very laborious operation. A few, however, make use of the English plough; and it is to be hoped, that the rest will soon follow their example. It is, indeed, surprising, that any farmer should want it, as it is plain to a demonstration, that it lays the ground infinitely better, and ploughs with much more ease to man and horse, than what the Scotch plough does; and the greatest part by far of the ground in this parish, is so smooth and level, that it suits it extremely well*.

Manures,

* Until of late, all the peats, manure, corn, &c. were carried upon carts or sledges, but now most of those who can afford it, have got carts, although, indeed, few have got cart roads to the peats. These are upon the whole, however, a great improvement, and one principal cause of their being able to reduce the number of their horses.

Number of ploughs in the parish,	-	-	86
— of harrows,	-	-	268
— of carts,	-	-	58

M. B. Of the ploughs, 8 only are made after the English construction.

Manures, Obstacles to Improvement, &c.—The principal part of the manure that is made use of in the parish, is what comes from the byre and stable, and is of various kinds, as all the cattle are housed, summer and winter, excepting with a few graziers and shepherds, who never house any but their milch cows, and in winter their work horses. The summer dung, the farmers generally mix in August, with some rich earth, or moss, and perhaps a few ferns, and, where it may be conveniently had, some sea-weed; and laying these ingredients upon one another, stratum above stratum, each in its turn, they make up a mound which forms a compost midding or dunghill. In November, this composition is carted away to some ley ground, which is ploughed in January or February, and a second time in May; and being sown with barley, produces a good crop. All the rest of the dung gathered throughout the year, is divided between bear land and potatoes; which last article is generally a sure crop in this country, and, together with a store of herrings, which they provide in harvest, is the principal part of the people's subsistence throughout the year. The potatoes here are thought to be of a superior quality to those which grow in the Low Country, especially such as are to be seen about towns. It is difficult to say, whether the poverty of the tenants, the shortness of their leases, ignorance of farming, or a strong attachment to a sea-faring life, particularly to the herring fishing trade, operate most powerfully to the detriment of agriculture. But one thing is evident, that all these causes contribute, each of them their share, to produce this bad effect; and they are all the natural consequence of one cause, viz. a vain attempt of grasping, at the same time, at the profits of husbandry, and the gains of a sea-faring

faring trade. It is asserted by the farmers, that, without the money they make by fishing, and other shifts, they would not be able to pay the rent of their lands; that the produce of the farms is not nearly equal to the purpose. This may, indeed, be true, in the way they manage them; for, having two objects in view, they are not able to pay proper attention to either; consequently neither the one nor the other succeeds with them according to expectation; but it is equally certain, were they to apply totally to either, whether farming or fishing be their choice, that they would succeed better. Experience proves the fact: for all those who attend properly to their farms, and depend upon them alone for livelihood, are the most wealthy tenants in the parish. The tenants, in general, are poor; and the principal causes of their poverty, besides those that have been mentioned, are, 1st, That too many families are often crowded into one small farm, and possess it in common; 2dly, That they generally overstock their farms; i. e. they keep upon a farm a great many more cattle than it is well able to support, which is a very common, and a very great error; for it reduces the breed to a diminutive size; and, being ill fed, they are, in a manner, useless to the proprietors; 3dly, They plough much more of their ground than they are able properly to manure. It is not at all rare to see 5 or 6 tenants living upon the same small farm, and possessing it in the old mode of run-ridge; each of these keeps a cottager; and there are, perhaps, as many other small tenants, who have each a few acres of arable land, with grafs for 2, 3, or 4 cows, cut out for himself, without any enclosure but a nominal line of march drawn between himself and the rest of the farm; and these small farms, so cut off, are here

called butts; in other places, they are termed crofts. Thus, very commonly from 8 to 15 families live upon one small farm, so that they must, by consequence, live very poorly themselves, although they pay but a very moderate rent to the landlord. The landlords, however, seem now clear to adopt a very different mode of letting their lands, which is, to conjoin 2 or 3 farms together, and let them as one possession to one tenant; by which means, they will receive a much greater rent, and the tenants will live more comfortably. Although the generality of tenants are thus small, yet there is in the parish 1 tenant who possesses 3 farms, 2 who possess 1 each, and 2 who possess 2 each.

Seed Time and Harvest, &c.—The farmers begin to sow oats in this parish in the beginning of April. When they have done with their oats; which is generally before the end of the month, they begin to plant their potatoes; and as this is an operation that seldom consumes much time, for they are all planted with the plough, they begin the sowing of barley in the beginning of May, and it is always the end of that month, or perhaps the beginning of June, before they have done. Next comes on the making of peats, which, together with leading the same, (a very troublesome and tedious job), consumes the most of the remaining part of summer. Barley harvest commonly begins about the middle of August, and oats are mostly cut in September and October. In wet late seasons, the harvest may not perhaps be entirely finished until the 12th of November. In the year 1787, it was still later. The soil of this parish, as well as that of Glendarual, seems peculiarly adapted for producing flax; and the farmers also seem inclined to

pay some attention to the raising of such a crop, but are discouraged from it, for the want of a lint-mill. Besides this, some of the proprietors restrict their tenants to a small quantity; as they think (and I believe justly) that flax, more than any other crop, scourges the ground.

The average produce of oats is thought rather better than 3 feeds, but not equal to 4.

That of barley from 6 to 7, and

— of potatoes 20 feeds.

Seed sown in the parish yearly.

<i>Oats.</i>	<i>Barley.</i>	<i>Potatoes.</i>	<i>Pease</i>
Bolls 765	111½	174	5

According to the above averages, there appears to be in the parish for consumption, after deducting the seed for the next season, yearly; oats 1530; barley between 666 and 777; potatoes 3306 bolls.

The valued rent of the parish is 345l. 1s. 1½d. The real rent has considerably increased since the valuation. The real rent, it is expected, will, in a few years, be greatly raised, as one-third of the parish, which was formerly under pretty long leases, is to be let, and a considerable augmentation is expected.

Prices of Grain and Provisions.—The prices of all kinds of grain are, in this parish, at all times ruled by the prices in Greenock, one of the dearest markets in the west of Scotland. The price of oat meal is seldom below 13s. 4d. Sterling, or above one guinea the boll. The barley is mostly sold to the distiller to be manufactured into whisky, and brings generally, in the Kerry or S. division, from 19s. to 21s. Sterling; and in Otter, from 20s. to 24s. the boll. In the Kerry, the grain is

inferior, and the measure less than that of Otter. In the Kerry the Bute measure is made use of, and in Otter the Kintyre or Campbelton measure. The one is to the other as 17 to 16, *i. e.* the 16 pecks in Otter are equal to 17 pecks in Kerry; and the 3 firlots, or 12 pecks, in Otter, are equal to the Linlithgow boll *.

Manufacture

* The parish was very seldom, if ever, known to produce grain sufficient for its own consumption; but as the quantity imported yearly must necessarily differ, in proportion to the favourableness or unfavourableness of the season, and the fertility of the crops, it is impossible to say, with accuracy, what the real amount of the imported grain may be, much less to guess at the average. In some remarkable good seasons, very little is required; in very bad ones, a great deal is necessary. The deficiency is supplied by Irish meal, imported first to Clyde, and from thence by the packets to this parish, or by Dumfries meal carried coastwise to the same place, and by the conveyance above mentioned, hither. These packets, which go irregularly from this parish to Greenock, are, upon the whole, much against the interest of the country. In the first place, they are a temptation to all ranks and degrees of people, to purchase many useless articles, which they could very conveniently dispense with; and thus they are daily draining the country of its cash. In the next place, they are the means of raising the price of every article for the use of the table, such as veal, lamb, hens, eggs, &c.; all which things are sent from here to Greenock, being always a high and ready market. This is particularly against tradesmen, and all others whose tables depend entirely upon the market, having no farms of their own to supply them. To dispose of these articles is a sufficient excuse, and the conveniency of the packet a strong enough inducement to a number of young persons of too much curiosity to pay frequent visits to Greenock and Port-Glasgow, idle away their time, sometimes fall into bad company, and often spend more money before they return, than the value of the cargo they carried abroad with them. At best, they do but exchange the useful commodities they had to dispose of for things trifling and superfluous, which serve to keep up the extravagance of dress, and are of no real advantage. Had the parish been, indeed, a place of trade, or manufacture, packets would certainly be useful, and even necessary; but this not being the case, neither likely to be so, either less or more, it is difficult to say what good end they serve; and their hurt to the country is visible in many respects.

Manufacture and Fisheries.—There is a small quantity of kelp made yearly in the S. end of the parish, upon the estate, and near the seat of the family of Lamont of Lamont, for which the proprietor gets a yearly rent. Few hands are employed to make so small a quantity. The herring-fishing takes up a great part of the time, and employs almost all the young men, and many of the married men, in this parish, during the season of it; which commonly begins in July and ends about Christmas. There are 21 open boats belonging to the parish, each manned with 4 hands, and constantly employed in catching herrings, in Lochfine, on the E. coast of Kintyre, or the coast of Arran, in Clyde, Lochlong, or wherever else they may appear upon the coast; and for several seasons past have been pretty successful. Their common haunt is the E. coast of Kintyre and Lochfine, but they are to be found occasionally in the other lochs mentioned. They generally make in a season from 50*l.* to 100*l.* each boat; and some of the most successful ones, perhaps, above 120*l.*; so that they have from

Wages and Price of Labour.—Servants wages are high. A man servant gets from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* 4*s.* in the half year, with victuals and shoes. A maid servant from 1*l.* 1*s.* to 2*l.* 2*s.*, with victuals, shoes, and some other perquisites, the half year. A day-labourer gets from 6*d.* to 8*d.*, with victuals, the day; from 1*s.* to 14*d.*, without victuals. A woman working by the day gets from 4*d.* to 6*d.* and victuals, and from 6*d.* to 8*d.* without victuals. A tailor gets 8*d.* the day, with victuals; a shoemaker 8*d.* for the pair shoes, and victuals; a wright 1*s.* and victuals; a carpenter and a sawer the same. Weavers, as in all other places, are paid by the yard, and according to the fineness of the cloth. Besides wages being so high, labourers are remarkably scarce, especially in harvest; and this is owing to the herring-fishing, which is at that season at its height, and which the people here always prefer to any other kind of work, being less toil, and more gain.—Services are not abolished in the parish by any of the residing heritors. They are seldom, however, exacted with such rigour as to do material injury to the tenants.

from 1cl. to 24l. to the share, the boat having an equal dividend with each of the hands. These are only the most successful, and who attend the fishing closely from the beginning to the end of the season. There are many others who follow the trade, but having also a small share of a farm or a butt, give only a partial attendance; and the shares of these are generally found at the end of the season to be very inconsiderable. Besides the number of hands thus employed at home in this trade, there is a great number, of both married and unmarried men, who go to the North Highlands aboard of the bounty vessels, and their wages in general are from 1l. 5s. to 1l. 16s. a month, with a barrel or half a barrel of herrings, according to the time they are out. The vessels they go aboard of, are those which sail from Greenock, Port-Glasgow, and Rothsay.

Inns.—There are 11 inns or public-houses in the parish. Two of them are slated, but all of them in very bad repair, and so exceedingly ill kept, that a traveller can scarcely get a decent bed, or a comfortable breakfast, in the best of them.

Roads and Bridges.—There are only 3 small bridges in the parish, and the roads are exceeding bad; notwithstanding a good deal of money has been from time to time expended upon them, they are in some places even impassable. This is partly owing to the very great length of the line, and the extreme difficulty of making it, and partly to the employing hitherto of country people for making them, who did not understand the business. By these ignorant undertakers, a great deal has been blocked out, and no part properly finished;

and when those parts which were thought to be made, were neglected for a few years, and allowed to fall into disrepair, they became the worst of the whole, at least, softer than what has remained untouched. The length of the principal line, from the public road at the head of Lochfine, to the S. point of this parish at Aird Lamont, may, at a moderate computation, be reckoned above 40 miles. Of that more than the half is now completely finished through the parish of Kilmorich and the united parishes of Strachur and Stralachlan, and they are now working towards the borders of this parish; as there is a proper undertaker now employed, we hope the remaining part will be finished next season. It is also intended to look out for an undertaker to contract for the bridges, which will be many in number, but none of any great size; without which the roads, however good, would be entirely useless, as there are many small waters impassable to wheeled machines. Besides this great line, there is another cross road through this parish, which is now nearly finished. It comes off from the great line from Inverary to Campbeltown near Lochgilphead, crosses Lochfine at the ferry of Otter, traverses this parish near the N. end; that of Glendarual at the low or S. part of it; enters the parish of Inverchaolan at Lochstravon-head, and comes to the Clyde at Dunoon, a village on the Cowal side, about 6 miles from Greenock.

Harbours.—There are no real harbours on the coast of this parish. The best anchorage places are in the Kyles of Bute, which, as was already observed, is a narrow sound that divides this parish from that island. In a variety of places upon either side of that sound, a vessel

vessel of almost any burden may ride safe enough at anchor from any wind that blows. There is pretty good anchorage also at the ferry of Otter, already mentioned, although not so well sheltered as the Kyles of Bute.

Ferries.—There are 3 ferries; one, already mentioned, at Otter, near the N. end of the parish, across Lochfine to the parish of Kilmichael, in the district of Argyll. At this ferry, the loch is supposed to be near a league broad, and the fare is 3d. Sterling each man; 9d. each horse. It is badly attended on either side as to hands and boats; and at the inns very ordinary accommodation is to be had, when the traveller happens to be storm-staid. This is very surprising, and much to be regretted, as it is very much frequented, being on the very public line of road from all that part of Argyllshire lying on the N. W. side of Lochfine, to Cowal, Greenock, Port-Glasgow, and all the adjacent parts of the Low Country. The other 2 ferries, are one from Bute to this parish, across the Kyles, and the other from this parish across Lochfine on the line of road from Rothsay, in Bute, to Tarbert, a village on the W. of Lochfine, about half way from Inverary to Campbleton. This line is not near so publick as that through the N. end of the parish; and the state of the ferries is much the same, only the houses are rather worse.

Church, Stipend, &c.—The church was repaired, or almost rebuilt in the year 1759, and is now little more than half-seated; but had it been entirely and properly finished within, it would only accommodate two-thirds of the congregation, even in summer, when they come out in the greatest numbers. In winter there is room enough,

as it is, for all that can attend; owing to the parish being so long and narrow, and the roads so bad, all the people in the extremities, and the old and feeble throughout the whole, must be content to stay at home. When we consider, that, some time ago, the parish was much more populous, and the church scarcely so well seated, it is difficult to guess how the congregation could be at all accommodated; unless we suppose, they did not then assemble so regularly as now. Indeed, if we judge from the proportion which the collections of these times bear to those of our own time, it favours much the supposition; besides that we have the testimony of many old men to confirm the same. The church stands in need now of a second repair, which it is to be hoped it will soon have. The living is 5 chalders oat meal, Dutch weight, 8 stone to the boll; 1 chalder barley, Linlithgow measure; with 27*l.* 15*s.* 8½*d.* Sterling in money, including the allowance for communion elements. Mr. Lamont of Lamont is patron. The manse was built in the year 1746, and has never been a sufficient house. It has got a partial repair in the year 1781, and stands now very much in need of another; although it is to be hoped the heritors will rather build a new one, than repair so bad a house. The glebe, including the garden, area of the manse and office-houses, is 3 acres, 2 roods, and 12 perches. Three-fourths of an acre of that are moss, which the present incumbent has attempted to drain and improve at considerable expense, but which he despairs of ever seeing arable*.

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I i

Poor

* The grass having never hitherto been designed, the minister has a servitude of 2 cows grass, and a horse grass, on the farm of Kilfinan, whereon stands his manse, church, and glebe. It would have been much

more

Poor and Schools—The number of poor upon the session-roll at present is 29. But there are a great many others, who, although they are not considered so very indigent as to have a claim upon the funds, yet go about begging among the tenants as often as the rest, and are as liberally supplied. The only permanent fund in the parish, for their supply, is £10s. Sterling, being the yearly interest of money mortified for their behoof, in the year 1737, by a Mr. Lamont of Kilfinan, who granted his bond to the session for payment of the above sum, yearly, in all time coming; together with the various collections made at church on Sundays, at marriages and baptisms, with small dues for proclamations, fornication fines, and fees paid for the mort-cloth. But their principal support is begging: and if the late excellent regulation that required all poor to keep within their own parishes, had been properly adhered to, and strangers kept off, our own poor might be tolerably well provided for. The funds have been hitherto in the management of the session; but it is uncertain how long they will continue so, as the session seems now very desirous to devolve this trouble upon the heritors; which is indeed but reasonable, as they are the persons who are liable for the maintenance of the poor *.

The

more for the interest of the proprietor of the farms and the minister both, that the grafs had been designed, contiguous to the arable part of the glebe; as, in that case, the one might let his farm to much better advantage, when freed from the disagreeable burden to which it is now subjected; and the other, having his whole ground together, might enclose and improve it to better purpose.

* The session has been in the use of meeting regularly once a year, to settle with the treasurer, and to distribute among the poor out of their capital, in such proportions as they could judge most proper, according

The parochial school is taught at the church. The salary is 4l. 6s. 3d. There is besides 4l. 15s. 6½d. interest of money mortified for the benefit of the school of Kilfinan, partly by the Mr. Lamont who left the mortification for the poor of the parish, as already mentioned, and partly by a lady whose name is unknown*.

Population.—The return to Dr. Webster in 1755 was
 I i a 1793

to the various necessities of the indigent. In case of sickness or accidental misfortunes happening to any of them, that might disable them from going about in quest of subsistence, they are considered of from time to time, the treasurer being appointed to give them such small donations, as will be a temporary relief; and the expenses of their funeral, to a certain extent, are always defrayed out of the funds, when they happen to die without leaving a subject of their own adequate to the purpose. The present incumbent, soon after his admission, observing there was very little cash in the treasury, and considering, that 10s., with any collections, &c. that could be expected, was too precarious a fund for such a number of poor as the roll exhibited, suggested to the session a plan of augmenting the trifling sum which they then had in the treasury, by such yearly savings as might be found convenient, until the capital should amount to 100l. The session having readily adopted this plan, the object is now nearly accomplished; and, after the first general meeting of the session, the poor may receive near double the sum they were in use of getting. These savings were made only in good and plentiful seasons; and when there happens a scarcity, or when the price of meal is very high, as it is this present year, there is a meeting extraordinary held to distribute among the poor according to their need

* The average number of scholars, for ten years past, reckoning from 1783, inclusive, is,

For the winter quarter,	-	-	55 scholars.
For the spring ditto,	-	-	43 ditto,
For the summer ditto,	-	-	28 ditto.

In summer last, viz. in 1793, there have been only 4 scholars.

There is another school that has been planted in the parish several years ago, by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge; but as the schoolmaster does not receive the accommodation and perquisites required by the Society, and in consideration that the number of scholars is but small, the Society are now talking of taking it away.

1793 souls. The present incumbent could find no record in the parish to show its ancient state of population at any period whatever; not even a catalogue either of communicants or examinable persons *. It is certain, however, from the testimony of people now living, that the parish has been more populous than it now is. The evident causes of its decrease, in point of population, are, The introduction of pasturage, instead of farming, and conjoining 2 or 3 farms together into one possession. By this union of farms, there are possessions in the parish whereon resided formerly from 12 to 16 families, now inhabited only by 1 or 2. The smuggling business being at an end, contributed also to depopulate this parish; the most of those who dealt in it being bankrupt, were obliged to leave the place in order to push their fortune somewhere else.

If the prices of cattle had continued as high as they have been for some years past, there is reason to believe, that the whole of this parish would soon be converted into such pastures as those above mentioned; but the prices having this year fallen considerably, and without any prospect of rising very suddenly, owing to the present stagnation in trade, and the banks having given up discounting bills, it is highly probable, that the rapid progress of depopulation will also receive a proportionable check; and that the proprietors will find it
their

* The cause of this seems to be, that his immediate predecessor, who was minister of the parish upwards of 4 years, was in such a bad state of health, as not to be able to examine the people, nor administer the sacrament all that time; and the last minister of the parish, prior to that period, also, was so superannuated, and fell into such bad health, that he was obliged to leave his charge to an assistant, some years before his death. So that during 9 years prior to the admission of the present incumbent, the sacrament was administered only once in the parish,

their interest to let their farms to farmers, instead of drovers and shepherds.

According to an exact survey taken in April 1793, the number of inhabitants in the parish of Kilfinan, was as follows :

Families,	-	310	Farmers,	-	-	98
Souls,	-	1417	Sailors and fishers,	-	-	112
Of these under 10 years,	-	342	Wrights,	-	-	7
From 10 to 20 years,	-	282	Weavers,	-	-	38
— 20 to 30,	-	200	Tailors,	-	-	22
— 30 to 40,	-	119	Shoemakers,	-	-	11
— 40 to 50,	-	162	Innkeepers,	-	-	11
— 50 to 60,	-	100	Millers,	-	-	3
— 60 to 70,	-	107	Cowans,	-	-	12
— 70 to 80,	-	78	Cottagers,	-	-	212
— 80 to 90,	-	25	Smiths,	-	-	3
— 90 to 100	-	3	Flaxdresser,	-	-	1
Communicants,	-	518	Distiller,	-	-	1
Average in families,	4 74-3	10th.	Dyer, and Waulk Miller,	-	-	1
All belonging to the Established Church.			Writer,	-	-	1
			Kelper,	-	-	1
			Justices of the Peace,	-	-	2
Divided by their professions.			Bachelors above 50,	-	-	10
Heritors residing,	-	6	Old Maids above 40,	-	-	31
Minister,	-	1	Widowers,	-	-	8
Elders and deacons,	-	12	Widows,	-	-	44

Average of births and marriages for 10 years, preceding October 1792, viz.

Births or Baptisms,	-	-	47 3-10ths.
Marriages,	-	-	10 3-10ths.

In the above account of tradesmen, it is proper to observe, that masters, journeymen, and apprentices, are all taken into the number, and perhaps some of them, who work at times at different trades, may be twice reckoned, especially among the fishers, as many of them have other trades, at which they work occasionally, and some

some have farms, and so may be reckoned among the farmers.

Horses, Cows, and Sheep.—The horses are of various kinds ; some of a Low Country breed, some of the real Highland kind, and many of a cross breed between the two. There were some Arabian stone horses brought to the neighbourhood, and one of them to this parish, some years ago, which hurt the breed very much ; for, being of a delicate kind, they do not answer either the climate or the keeping, so well as other horses. By far the greatest number, and those that suit the country best, are real Highlanders ; but they are here rather smaller in general than the ordinary size, owing to the bad keeping. Scarcely the half of the number of horses needed in the parish are reared in it, but bought at the markets on the N. side of Lochfine, by jockies, and sold here to the farmers. Their prices are various, from 5*l.* to 15*l.*

The cows are neither so large nor so handsome as they are in most of the neighbouring parishes, especially on the N. side of Lochfine ; and this is also owing to overstocking the farms, and housing them at night : for they are all in the house at night, young and old, I mean with the common tenants. Some also keep a few Low Country cows, believing that they give more milk ; and this too hurts the breed. The average value of tidy cows may be about 3*l.* 10*s.* ; of dry cows about 2*l.* 10*s.*

The sheep are almost all of the black faced kind, and are rather diminutive too, owing to the same cause that was assigned for black cattle being underfized. Of them, however, there is not a very principal stock in the parish, as all pastures here are mixed pastures ; the graziers

tiers keeping a number of horses, black cattle, and sheep, together. The small white faced Highland kinds are all gone, which some think is to be regretted, as they were undoubtedly better mutton, and their wool infinitely finer than that of others. They were not found, however, so profitable, it seems, as they did not draw such long prices when brought to market.

Number of working horses in the parish,	272
——— of black cattle come to full growth,	1965
——— of sheep ditto,	5476
——— of swine,	65

Few of the swine are reared in this parish, but bought in from other parishes in summer or beginning of harvest; and they are seldom kept longer than till winter, when they are fattened mostly upon potatoes, and killed.

Coal and Fuel.—The fuel made use of in this parish by all the common people, and mostly by the better sort, is peats; which, as they lie generally at an exceeding great distance, and the roads to the mosses bad, are remarkably troublesome and expensive. The mode of carrying them home is, by many, in bags in back loads, by some in creels upon cars or sledges; and by a few, where the ground is more level, or where the roads happen to be better attended to, upon carts. The making, preparing, and leading of these peats consumes the greatest part of the people's time in summer; and too often, in spite of all their labour and attention, they lose the most of them, from the wetness of the climate, and the softness of the roads. The lairds, and others who can afford it, have generally some coals besides their peats, and some burn very little but coals. These
coals

coals are carried by water from Glasgow or Irvine ; and notwithstanding the freight being very high, they are reckoned, upon the whole, especially now that the duty is taken off them, cheaper than peats ; and it would undoubtedly be the interest of the tenants, who have mostly boats of their own, to carry coals from Glasgow, rather than lose their time, and spoil their horses working at peats. The freight from Glasgow is generally between 2s. and 2s. 6d. the single cart ; but those who take a great cargo, and employ gaberts, get them a little cheaper.

Antiquities.—There is nothing remarkable of this kind to be seen in this parish, excepting cairns, duns, and borradhs. These cairns, of which there are but few in this parish, are large piles of stones heaped together, where battles are supposed to have been fought, and where heroes fell, and are buried. In many parts of the Highlands, where they are to be seen, tradition is very distinct concerning them, and generally the name of the person or persons put to death sticks to the cairn.

Duns are very numerous, not only in this, but in all parishes in the Highlands. They are a row of large stones put together, generally in a circular form, on the top of conspicuous hills, not far from, and always in sight of one another. In this parish, where as many of them are to be seen, in proportion to the extent of the place, as any where we know ; they are generally on hills of a conical figure. They are supposed to have been places for kindling fires on, for the purpose of warning the country, and summoning the people to assemble for the common defence, on the sudden appearance of an enemy.

Borra

Borra or borradh, is also a pile of stones, but differs from a cairn in many respects, viz. in external figure, being always oblong in internal construction, and in its size and design. There are 2 vestiges of them in this parish, which, although they are mostly now dilapidated for building of houses and walls, yet so much remain of each, as to show distinctly what they once were. The one of them, which is the largest, is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile N. from the parish church, a little above the great line of road, on the top of an eminence, near a moss. This immense pile of stones was, till last summer, near 40 yards long, of considerable breadth, and amazing depth. At the bottom, from the one end to the other, there was a number of small apartments or cells, end to end, each made up of 5 or 7 large flags. Each cell was about 6 feet long, 4 broad; and such of them as remained to be seen in our time, about 5 feet high. One large flag made up each side; and another, which was generally of a curved figure, to throw off the water, covered it for a roof: the end sometimes was made up of 2, and an open between them wide enough for a man to squeeze himself through: sometimes there was only 1 flag in the end, and only half as high as the side flags, so that the entry was over it; and in these there were only 5 flags: They were generally built on an eminence, where the fall of the water was from thence on either side; and when that was not the case the cells were at some distance from the bottom of the pile or borradh. The cells were not always in a straight line from end to end, but they were always so regular, as that the same communication pervaded the whole*.

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About

* There are various conjectures about their use and design. Some think they were burying places for the ashes of heroes and great warriors,

About 3 miles S. from the church, and not far from the sea, is to be seen the foundation, and a small part of the wall of a chapel, surrounded by a church-yard, on a small field called Ardarnock, i. e. St. Marnock's Field. In this church-yard was found, some years ago, a stone very prettily cut, and a long inscription on it, as the people who saw, think, in Latin: but they were so senseless as to make use of the stone in building a house on the farm. About 300 yards above this chapel, on an eminence, a cell, and part of another, appears in the end of a pile of stones or borradh, exactly similar to, but much smaller than the one I have been describing. From what remains of this cairn or borradh, it seems to

rriors, and human bones have been often found in them. Others believe them to have been concealed beds or lurking places for robbers and plunderers. The objection to this is, the confinement in such small apartments, and the probability of their being found out by the smoke of their fire, and, in case of being found, the certainty of being put to death, as there could be no possibility of escape. Another opinion, fully as likely, is, that they were places of defence for herds, who were sent at a distance with the cattle, for the sake of clean grass, to defend them at night from wolves, and other wild beasts, which at that time overran the country. For my own part, I must acknowledge, that I am not satisfied with any of these conjectures, but think it much more probable, that they were places of concealment, not for plunderers, but for booty. It is a well known fact, that it was a very general custom among the inhabitants of the Highlands, and that too at no very remote period, that a party of one clan should arm themselves, and repair to a distant country, plunder and carry off the effects and cattle of some other clan; and if they were fortunate enough to escape the pursuit, and to bring them to their own country in safety, they immediately slaughtered them, salted them in their own hides, and concealed them the best way they could. Is it not likely enough that the places above mentioned were contrived for this purpose? Indeed, any person who has seen them, must, I think, allow they were as suitable for this design as could well be imagined; for being surrounded with wood, as they all were, and covered over with heath or grass, they appeared such a natural protuberance, that they could not be suspected as artificial.

to have been only about 20 yards long; and the cells, from the sample that is to be seen, were also smaller than those in the other mentioned *.

There are a few Druidical stones to be seen in the parish, with some traces of those circular rings of stones supposed to have been their places of worship. It is unnecessary to mention, that these Druidical stones are mostly very long, and standing perpendicular. One of those in this parish is among the highest, perhaps, in the country.

On a rocky point, on the coast of Lochfine, about a mile below the church, is to be seen the vestige of a building called *Caisteal Mhic Eobhuin*, i. e. M'Ewen's Castle. It was a wide, but irregular building, neither square nor circular; perhaps nearer a pentagon than any other plan: it does not appear to have been built with any kind of mortar; but, from the quantity of rubbish, it must have been of a considerable height. This M'Ewen was the chief of a clan, and proprietor of the northern division of the parish, called Otter. His possession of it must have been of very remote antiquity; for there is

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no

* There is a tradition in the country, which has wonderfully obtained universal credit; that the entire cell that is to be seen in this borradh was the place where St. Marnock used to retire for the purposes of devotion, fasting, and penance; and likewise where he heard confessions; which very much excited my curiosity, as well as that of many others, to see it. But upon visiting the place, and viewing the cell, I could not but wonder at the unaccountable credulity of those who could believe such an unlikely story. For the very size of it is such, that St. Marnock must have been a very little man, as well as the person confessing, to find room in it, unless in a very awkward posture. It is therefore most likely, that the idea had been adopted from its vicinity to the chapel above mentioned, dedicated to St. Marnock. For my own part, I am much more disposed to think, that, instead of its being the cell of a saint, it is more likely to have been the den of a thief; I mean a place contrived by plunderers, as I have said above, for concealing their booty.

no record nor tradition that says who possessed the property before them. Many of the clan still reside upon the estate.

Miscellaneous Observations.—All the lands in this parish are thirled to certain mills, to the extent of the 16th part of the oats, the 11th part of the barley. They are also obliged to have their smith-work done by certain smiths; which has a bad effect, as it tends to make these tradesmen lazy and inattentive; indifferent whether they do their work sufficient or otherwise, being sure, that the people cannot employ any but themselves. In the northern district, they are obliged to pay full multure to the miller, even for the barley they sell to distillers out of the parish; which is a very great hardship to the farmer, when there is not one in the lands perhaps to buy it. There are no manufactures carried on in this parish, and probably never will, on account of the scarcity of the fuel, which is one of the greatest disadvantages the inhabitants lie under. Another disadvantage is the want of a regular post and post-office in the neighbourhood, having none nearer than Inverary, which is near 30 mile from some parts of this parish. This puts us to the expense of employing a runner once a-week; and the neighbouring parish of Glendarual is in the same situation. Glendarual is a very central place for a post-office, for the whole of the low part of Cowal, and in the middle of a straight line of road between Inverary and Rothsay. It would be a very general good to plant a post-office there, and the commerce between the two places could afford not only to pay the post, but would probably return some revenue to government.—Superstition is losing ground

in this parish pretty fast, although not in the same proportion, perhaps, as it has done on the N. side of Lochfine. We cannot ascribe this to a more likely cause, than that formerly it may have prevailed more in these parts, and that the clergy have on that account thought it necessary to be at great pains in rooting it out. There is one pernicious practice that prevails much in this parish, which took its rise from this source, which is, that of carrying their children out to baptism the first or second day after birth. Many of them, although they had it in their option to have their children baptized in their own houses, by waiting one day, prefer carrying them 7 or 8 miles to church, in the worst weather in December or January, by which folly they too often sacrifice the lives of their infants to the phantom of superstition. It is not recorded, that any native of this parish has been executed for any crime whatever. There have been 2 suicides about 20 years ago. The language most commonly spoken in this parish is the Gaelic, although not in that degree of purity and perfection as on the N. side of Lochfine. Almost all the names of places are derived from it, and are, in general, descriptive of their appearance and situation. The people in general are of a middle stature, rather thicker in proportion to their height than the inhabitants of the Low Country. They are more attached to a seafaring life than to husbandry; and although pretty often at sea, they are in general sober. There is plenty of fish of various kinds to be found in Lochfine; such as cod, from 1 to 5 lb. weight; whittings from 1 to 3 lb.; haddock from 1 to 4 lb.; plenty of seath of different sizes, and skate in abundance. About the S. point of the parish, plenty of lobsters and partens or crabs: mackerel is sometimes,

sometimes, but seldom, to be found upon the coast. There is a good deal of salmon in the loch ; but there is no salmon draught in this parish. All the kinds of sea-fowl common to the Highlands, and of the moorfowl also, excepting tarmagans, frequent this parish. The tarmagan is a bird, although very tame, or rather stupid, yet is never to be found but in very high hills, and where the grass is pretty clean. He has a wonderful aversion to sheep walks. There are various kinds of migratory birds, such as the scale drake, widgeon, solon goose or gannet, barnacle, swan, wild goose, sterling, teal, king's fisher, fieldfare, stone-chatter, green plover, lapwing, cuckoo, swallow, woodcock, snipe, with a great variety of other sea-fowl, such as allan, hawk, scarts, cormorants, and many kinds of duckers.

All the slated houses in the parish habited and uninhabited, are 15.

NUMBER

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF BELLIE.

(SYNOD OF MURRAY*, PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JAMES GORDON.**Name, Extent, Situation, &c.*

BELLIE has been imagined by some to be the Gaelic word *Bellaidh*, signifying “ broom ;” but others, more justly, reckon it a compound from the two Gaelic words *Beul-aith*, meaning ‘ the mouth of the ford.’ This etymology is perfectly natural, as, a little above the church, there was, till the prodigious flood in 1768 destroyed it, and opened various channels, one of the finest fords upon the Spey. There his Royal Highness, with his Majesty’s army, passed with great safety in 1746, a few days before the battle of Culloden, the Duke of Kingston’s light cavalry leading the van. A gentleman once would, jocularly, have this place Bel-lieu. Indeed, Bellie’s hill is a most beautiful spot, commanding a delightful

* Fochabers is in the county of Murray, and the country part is in Banffshire.

lightful prospect of Gordon Castle, of the river and part of Murray, of the Murray Frith, and the mountains of Sutherland and Caithness *.

Bellie extends from S. to N., near 6 measured miles, and from E. to W. almost 4. It is bounded on the N. by the Murray Frith, and on the W. by the river Spey. A considerable part of this space, to about 4 miles from the sea, is contained within the ancient banks of this river, which are very high. What these banks enclose may be considered as the range or territory of the Spey at this place, though it has greatly shifted its channels in different periods. At Gordon castle, which is between them, but near that on the E., these banks are near a mile distant from each other. They gradually widen in their approach to the sea, and where the river falls into the frith, are near 2 miles asunder. Between the bank on the E., and the present bed of Spey, is a fine extensive plain, with many farms, and a great number of inhabitants, the river having kept near the W. side for time immemorial, though it has frequently made savages, that have rendered many embankments and bulwarks requisite. This bank is for about a mile below Gordon castle, handsomely dressed in imitation of nature, and adorned by fine plantations of trees and shrubs, with very pleasant walks. Here is a very great number of large clusters of hollies, which have procured it the appellation of the Holly Bank, as below it is styled the

* All the old names of farms here are of Celtic origin, as *Dalachy*, the plain field; *Auchenreath*, the field of heath; *Auchenbalrigg*, the field of spectres or hobgoblins, &c. The Gaelic tongue, however, has long disappeared in this part of the country; the language, in general, being that dialect of English common to the North of Scotland; though, among all persons who pretend to any thing like education, the English language is daily gaining ground.

the Bank of Bellie. At the S. end of this charming level stands Gordon castle. It has a front of 568 feet. I will not attempt to describe this most superb and elegant structure. It is well known to be one of the noblest palaces in Britain, and attracts the notice of all travellers, who never fail to return highly gratified *. Here many a costly drain has been employed to form the enchanting landscape it now exhibits. There is an immense extent of plantation, a large park of fallow deer; and here we are charmed with all the melody of the grove. Here the woodcock visits us about the end of October, the fieldfare in the winter, and the green plover in the spring. About a mile N. of Gordon castle, and 3 miles S. of the Frith, is the church of Bellie, upon the old east bank of the Spey, soon to be translated to Fochabers, where a very commodious, elegant church is to be built, which will be greatly ornamental to the place. The old manse is in ruins, and the minister has got an excellent house in the town of Fochabers †.

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Soil

* The ancient residence here was called *Bogra-gbhu*, or windy bog, there being a very free circulation of air from the Frith and the W.; and the ferry-boat is still the boat of Bog. This habitation was long known all over the N., by the name of The Bog, for an obvious reason. Spalden, if I remember right, seldom uses any other term for it. The castle had doubtless been built here with a view to strength, by ditches and inundation, when property was not so effectually secured as in our happy days, by the regular execution of wholesome and equitable laws. I need not say how necessary it was in those times to erect fortresses on rocks and in marshes.

† Fochabers is compounded of the two Gaelic words, *Frich*, a green plain, properly a plain for rendezvous or weapon-shaw, which was often practised here, and *Aber*, a bay or junction of two waters; the burn of Fochabers here uniting itself with the Spey. Some years ago, Fochabers was removed southward from the vicinity of Gordon Castle to a rising ground, near a mile distant, and built on a neat plan, with an extensive square in the centre. It is a burgh of barony, and has a burgh baillie. A physician resides among us. We have

Soil and Agriculture.—The ground, which has been recovered from the Spey, is, in general, by a very long course of frequent manure, and, being in small farms, abundantly fertile. We have a good deal of loamy soil. There is not much clay land: That upon the coast is sandy. In general, we depend very much upon the dews of heaven. In a droughty July, our crop near the sea, though promising, dwindles amazingly. We enjoy, however, upon the whole, a happy climate: Our agricultural system has nothing very different from that of our neighbours all around. We have very few enclosures, except at Gordon castle, (where an extensive farm is totally enclosed), and at Auchenshalrigg. We cannot boast much of our other modes of melioration, though we commonly do the best we well can. The people are industrious, and labour hard; and you will not see any thing like a farm, where you do not behold a field of sown grass, a piece of turnips, and some potatoes. The potatoe is much cultivated by those who have but small spots of ground, and proves very useful. The sea-weed is much used as manure, to the distance of 2 or 3 miles along the coast; and no work is suffered to interrupt the pursuit of it. Our crops of grain consist chiefly of barley, oats, pease, and rye*.

There

have three annual fairs, one of them for black cattle; and a weekly market for butter and cheese, eggs, poultry, &c. but it is not much resorted to. There are several retail shops, and an ordinary number of the usual artificers. There are two good inns, well frequented. We have a friendly society pretty numerous. Its funds are accumulating, and will, in a little time, answer very benevolent and useful purposes.

* The average wages for common labourers are 6d. a-day in winter, and 8d. in summer. For harvest work, women receive 6d., and men 10d. A common artificer gets 10d. or 1s. a-day. With these payments, they generally have their victuals. A good man servant for the half year seldom has less than 3l., and the women, for the same period, receive about 20s. And these point at continual increase.

There are in the parish upwards of 1000 black cattle, mostly of the common country breed, many of which are sent away in the summer to graze, pasture grass being scarce upon the coast. We have about 340 horses, many of them rather small sized, and something above 2200 sheep, generally a mixture of the Linton breed. Gordon castle will readily be supposed an exception to all these, where the cattle, horses and sheep are large. Many plough with a pair of horses. Indeed, it is the most frequent practice, the ground being light and easily managed: Some put a yoke or two of black cattle behind them. There are but few ploughs, comparatively, drawn by oxen entirely. A cart among the country people may generally be reckoned for every horse: Carts drawn otherwise, are not many in comparison.

Manufactures and Fisheries.—One manufacturer of some eminence, has long resided on the burn of Fochabers, and manages very considerable business in weaving stockings of cotton, thread, and worsted, and some pieces for waistcoats and breeches. He also deals a little in the thread trade. Another, who is also a merchant, carries on a manufacture of lint, thread and tobacco, to some amount. There is a capital salmon fishery here upon the Spey, chiefly the property of the Duke of Gordon, from which his grace derives a rent of 1500l. a-year, from Messrs. Gordon and Richardson. It extends from Speymouth about 5 miles, and terminates in a complete row of cruives across the river. There is a large lofty edifice near the sea for the gentlemen that hold the lease. There are buildings for the overseers, coopers, &c., and that furnish every accommodation for the fishery. They have got a very good ice-house. An hundred and

thirty men, or more, are employed in this fishery. There is also a salmon fishing upon the coast, called stell fishing. Some thousands of salmon are sent to London early in the season, covered with ice: Afterward they are exported in kits steeped in vinegar, of which many hogheads are yearly laid in for the purpose. These kits contain about 36 pounds of salmon each. When the great city is plentifully supplied, and the price much reduced, it becomes convenient to salt the salmon, and to send them to the foreign markets. The natural effect of this demand, is dearth of salmon here. Indeed, the expense of living has increased very considerably within these 20 years in almost every article. In this we are not singular.

Proprietors.—The Duke of Gordon is our only residing heritor, and, indeed, sole proprietor of the parish, except of one farm belonging to the Earl of Findlater.

Population, &c.—The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was 1730. The parish of Bellie now contains 1919 souls, viz. country part 984, and the village 935. Of these, there are 859 males, and 1060 females. This disproportion has not been occasioned by emigration, for of that we have had very few instances, but from the military genius exerting itself on particular emergencies. We have of married couples 272, and of young people about 10 years old, and under, 437, viz. 205 boys, and 232 girls. Though it be known, that a superior number of males is born into the world, these little differences will happen in particular corners, by removals and other causes. For 14 years past, 10 couples, at a medium, have been married yearly, and 31 children registered,

registered, viz. 16 males, and 15 females. The latter article cannot be exact as to the number born in the parish, it being difficult to bring some, even of our own people, to insert the names of their children, with all the care that can be taken. There are in the parish 458 dwellings; 250 in Fochabers, and 208 in the country. The average number in these habitations is a little more than 4. With regard to longevity, there is nothing here peculiar. We are blessed with a mild, pure, temperate air. Some live to 70, some to 80 years of age, though few, in comparison, it may be supposed. A few are now alive on the very borders of 90. A man died at 90 some little time ago, and another at 108, or upwards. There are no diseases incident, in any uncommon way, to this corner. The fishermen, from their employment, are sometimes seized with palsies in the lower parts, and severe rheumatism. These maladies are guarded against by the care taken of them, and the quantity of spirits allowed them.

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—By far the greater part of the people are of the established church. We have, however, a very considerable number of Roman Catholics, with a priest of the church of Rome, and a large chapel.

There are a few Protestants of the Episcopal persuasion; and 4 or 5 Seceders reside among us. We all live very cordially and happily together. The body of the people, it is but justice to say, are of respectable character. We have, alas! exceptions: And what community is without some, whose conduct in life is matter of very serious regret. The custom that prevails more and more, not in this corner alone, among the lower classes,

of

of substituting dram-drinking for a draught of good beer, has a most pernicious tendency, with regard to health and morals. The people here are, in general, of a sober, rational, religious disposition, regular in their attendance on public ordinances, and careful of the social duties*.

The stipend of Bellie is 72l. 6s. 4½d., including allowances for communion elements. The glebe at Bellie was lately exchanged for one at Fochabers, which measures 13 acres of good land.

Schools and Poor.—There is a parochial school at Fochabers. The schoolmaster teaches English, Latin, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping. His salary is 14 bolls meal. He has a small fee as session-clerk, the school dues, and payment for registration of baptisms and marriages. There is a society school about 3 miles from Fochabers, of the utmost consequence to very great numbers of poor creatures, who could not possibly attend, or be accommodated in the parish school.

We have not many common beggars, yet a numerous list of poor, among whom are distributed the collections in the church, which (especially when our great family is at home) are of much benefit, the dues from the mortcloth, and the interest of a little money. A chaldar of meal is annually bestowed upon the poor about 2d February, the Marquis of Huntly's birth day. There are some bedemen who, by an ancient provision in the family,

* Near the confines of this and Rathven parishes, a neat chapel has been lately built for the itinerant minister, who has a considerable district of this parish as part of his charge. He has something from a fund collected, and accumulating, for the benefit of that mission, in addition to his salary from the society, and a glebe of 3 acres. A house is also intended him.

family, receive meal and money, which give a very comfortable subsistence. They are old worn-out men. Private donations are given ; and the people, in general, are charitably disposed.

Curiosity and Antiquity.—The only rare plant in the parish, is the *Satyrion Repens*, which grows in plenty within a mile of Fochabers.

There is a field of a little more than 3 acres, a little to the N. of the church of Bellie, to which tradition has given the name of the Danish Camp. Large remains of the entrenchments have been preserved. It is upon the old E. bank of the Spey, and the river had then flowed at the bottom, which had occasioned the choice of the post. This camp may have been connected with the battle between the Scots and Danes, in the neighbourhood of Cullen. From the square figure of the encampment, it should rather seem to have been a Roman camp, though it be difficult to say when the Romans were here, unless Agricola might land a detachment in his traverse on the coasts of Scotland.

Bridge over the Spey.—I cannot conclude this sketch of the parish of Bellie, without taking notice of the necessity of throwing a bridge over the Spey at Fochabers. This is, upon the most solid grounds, the ardent wish of all who know this passage. Fochabers is a very considerable thorough-fare, and Spey is well known to be a large and rapid river. Numberless travellers of all descriptions from every part of Britain, pass this way, who are frequently detained by floods and boisterous winds, and sometimes cross with danger. The post-boy is, at times, detained, though they wait him over when they would

would not run the risk with any other person. Not long ago, he was stopped 3 nights in the course of one week. They sometimes ferry over the mail, when they dare not take the horse into the boat. A bridge here would be of the utmost consequence to the country, in driving cattle to and from the markets, of which many fine droves travel this way, and are often reduced to great hardships. It would be extremely beneficial in bringing lime from Banffshire to Murray, where it is exceedingly wanted; and it would be of unspeakable importance to his Majesty's troops, who almost always march by this route; especially would it be of the last moment, when the public service requires dispatch. The universal sense of the propriety of this measure, has already been strongly evinced by very considerable subscriptions, to which, it is to be hoped, liberal additions will yet be made. Public aid, however, is indispensibly necessary: and we may humbly presume, that aid will very generously be granted, when the state of national affairs can properly admit of it.

NUMBER

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF TYNRON.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF
PENFONT.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES WILSON.

Name, Situation, Soil, and Product.

TYNRON, even in the present century, has undergone several alterations in the orthography of its name. In some old writings Tinrome and Tynrome are used promiscuously. About 60 years ago, Tinran was occasionally adopted. And since that period *Tynron* has been generally marked in any writings as the proper name of the parish. Those who pretend an acquaintance with the Gaelic language, say it is of Gaelic extraction, signifying, "A hill with a nose." If this be the case, Tynron unquestionably owes its name to a hill near the bottom of the parish, called the *Doon*, in the front of which there is a piece of ground jetting out, partly resembling a nose upon the human face. Tynron is situated in the western part of Nithsdale, a district of

Dumfriesshire. It is long and narrow, lying between the parishes of Glencairn and Penpont: Glencairn running along the S. W. side about 8 Scotch miles; Penpont upon the N. E. side about 9 miles. The parish of Keir is a boundary at the lower end; and at the N. W., or uppermost, it touches the parish of Dalry, lying in the stewartry of Galloway. It is generally computed to be 10 Scotch miles in length, and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, at an average. The greatest part of the parish is a strath, little valley ground and hills rising up on both hands. The hills are mostly green, and being well clothed with grass, are remarkable for feeding a larger number of sheep than the same quantity of land in any strath around. The greatest part of the parish is chiefly calculated for raising and feeding of sheep: although, of late years, the tillage of lands has considerably increased, on account of the neighbouring lime-works of Closeburn and Barjarg, which have been carried on with spirit and success. The soil is rather thin and sandy, and, from the greater part of the arable lands being situated on the edge of hills, the crops are neither luxuriant nor early. Oats are chiefly raised. Potatoes also in great abundance. There is a considerable quantity more of grain than is equal to supply the inhabitants. Since the large demands have commenced for black cattle in England, the landholders have been encouraged to raise them in greater quantities. And those farms which fed sheep only about 40 or 50 years ago, feed now some black cattle also upon their lowest lands, where the grass is strongest, and most shelter to be found. The farmer finds his interest in this mode of management, as, in this way, he seldom misses of drawing considerable profits from one part of his stock, agreeable to what is most

in vogue for the season. The number of sheep in the parish is rather above 8000. They are all of the black-faced moor kind: The wool of very ordinary quality: The chief attention hitherto has been paid to the quantity: And what they call the well-clad sheep is greatly preferred to the other kind. The sheep-dealers from Cumberland have hitherto given a decided preference to the rough shaggy-woolled sheep; and at the English border markets they have met with the readiest sale, and brought the highest prices. They are reckoned of a sturdy constitution, and best able to meet the severities of winter. The late treatises and strictures upon the improvement and melioration of wool in Scotland, brought home upon the mind in a convictive way, by a successful practice on the part of some enterprising character, are only equal to the purpose of removing strong and obstinate local prejudices. The number of black cattle cannot be so well ascertained, being a stock often changed. There are no more horses kept than what are necessary for carrying on the agricultural and other farm labour:

Population.—The return to Dr. Webster in 1753 was 464. There are at present resident in Tynron near 500 souls. Several of the inhabitants live to old age. An old lady died in 1787 at the advanced age of 112. Within these last 20 years, 4 or 5 persons have died above 80 years of age. And there are several living at present in the parish who are nearly arrived at fourscore years. There are very few instances of people dying in the middle time of life. And when the diseases incident to childhood and early youth are safely got over, good health and long life are generally enjoyed. At an

Ecclesiastical State.—The church was built near the beginning of the century; and the half of it, by the roof giving way, obliged to be rebuilt about 40 years ago. A slight repair has been made upon both walls and roof in the 1787, and is now pretty comfortable, except upon a fall of snow, which penetrates through several crevices in the roof. The manse and offices were all built anew in the 1785, and are in the best repair. The living, including the glebe, is about 100*l*. The Duke of Queensberry is patron.

There are about 20 Seceders in the parish: the half belonging to the Antiburgher, and the other half to the Cameronian congregations. There is one man attached to the Relief society.

Rent, &c.—The valued rental of Tynron, as it stands up on the valuation roll of the county of Dumfries, is 4110 merks, 6*s*. 8*d*. Scots. The real rental may be stated at 1500*l*. Sterling; but this is not given out to be an accurate statement, as there is a difficulty in doing this, from many farms being in the personal possession of the heritors; and those belonging to the Duke of Queensberry;

poor, is upon the best and most agreeable footing. A very commodious house of two storeys in height, in pursuance of the suggestions of the donor, was raised in the 1765, in the near neighbourhood of the parish church, by the late Duke of Queensberry, and another public-spirited heritor. One large apartment is used as the school-room, and the rest of the house appointed for the accommodation of the teacher. Besides this donation to the parish, there have been smaller ones made by well disposed charitable persons, for the use of those standing upon the poor's roll. Besides the weekly collections made for the poor, amounting to 11*l*. or 12*l*. annually, there is a small piece of landed property belonging to them, yielding 7*l*. of yearly rent. The number of poor's names on the roll is 12 or 14. They have a pretty comfortable subsistence; and not one of them is known to go beyond the bounds of the parish as an itinerant beggar.

berry, instead of augmented rents, are let out for 19 years, at very moderate rents, and a grassum taken at the commencement of the tack. There are 11 separate properties, and 8 of the heritors are resident. The half of the parish belongs to the Duke of Queensberry.

Rivulets.—The only stream of water worthy of notice is the Shinnel, rising at the upper extremity of the parish, and running along through the middle, till it discharges itself into the Scarr, when it loses its name. There are several smaller streams, that in this country are called Burns. They all abound with the burn trout, which affords excellent amusement to the angler.

Fuel.—Peat is commonly used in the upper end or moor part of the parish; and the lower part depends chiefly upon coals brought from Sanquhar, above 16 miles of land carriage. The coal is purchased at a small price. The chief expense lies upon the carriage.

Curiosities.—What is most worthy of notice in this respect is the hill already mentioned, supposed to give name to the parish, commonly called the Doon of Tynron. This hill rises up in a pyramidical form. There is a small piece of flat ground, on the top of which, tradition says, stood a castle. It is certain, however, there has been a considerable building upon it, although few traces now remain. It is consistent with the knowledge of many of the inhabitants now living, that when the half of the parish church was rebuilt about 40 years ago, many free stones, for that purpose, were brought from this place; which must have been carried thither at
a great

a great expense; as the nearest quarry of the kind is above 4 miles distant, and the hill very inaccessible. This building has been one of those places of strength with which the country formerly abounded, and has been encircled by several large mounds of earth, which are still very visible. There is an extensive prospect of the surrounding country to be enjoyed from the top of this hill. An old Roman way runs through the parish; and at this distant day from its formation, is in many places quite uncovered with grass. Its direction is from E. to W., along the face of the hills. There are several tumuli of stones. There is one tumulus of earth of considerable size. None of them have been opened. In the Shinnel, there is a deep fall of water called the Aird Linn, which is occasionally visited by those who delight in grand and striking objects.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The price of labour is much raised of late years. An ordinary farm man-servant draws 8l. or 9l. a-year. A maid-servant from 3l. to 4l. Harvest wages a-day 8d., with victuals, or 1s. without them. But the general practice is hiring labourers to remain in the house during the harvest weeks. The roads are much improved since the commutation of the statute-labour. Much inconvenience is felt from the great distance of a weekly market, the nearest being Dumfries, which is above 16 miles.

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH of GOVAN:

(SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND Ayr, PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN POLLOCK:

Situation and Extent

THE parish of Govan lies chiefly in the county of Lanark. Renfrewshire cuts off a small proportion of it on the S. side. Notwithstanding the erection of the village of Gorbals into a separate parish in 1771, by the commission court, and the subsequent disjunction *quoad sacra* of the lands in its immediate vicinity by the presbytery, the parish of Govan is still about 5 miles in length from E. to W., and between 3 and 4 in breadth. The river Clyde, which is there navigable, by vessels drawing 7 feet 6 inches, and runs through the whole length of the parish from E. to W., divides it nearly into 2 equal parts. The lands on the sides of the Clyde, form a most beautiful plain; extending in breadth 2 mile and

an half, and upwards, the greatest part of which lies on the S. side ; and as the plain continues several miles below Govan, has a good deal of plantations upon it, as well as a considerable number of elegant villas, and is all along intersected by the Clyde, upon which vessels are constantly passing either to or from Glasgow, it forms from the high grounds on the S. and N., one of the most delightful landscapes that can be imagined.

State of Ferry.—This division of the parish, however, though a remarkable addition to the beauty of its scenery, is felt as a great inconvenience by the parishioners on the N. side of the Clyde. There is no bridge over this river below Glasgow ; and its banks are frequently so overflowed by heavy falls of rain, that all communication by the ferry boat, about 2 miles below that place, is either entirely stopped, or rendered extremely troublesome and dangerous. At any time, indeed, passing from the one side to the other, is inconvenient to old and infirm people, and to those who find it necessary to cross the water at funerals ; because, though there was once a quay on the N. side, it has been completely sanded up, since the commencement of the operations mentioned in the account of Glasgow, for improving the navigation of the river ; and the ferry, which is become private property, has been long in a very neglected state. As some gentlemen in the parish, however, who are no less distinguished by their public spirit, than by the extent of their possessions, have, of late, been turning their attention to the improvement of the ferry, and are endeavouring to procure a boat of the same kind as at Renfrew, the inconvenience complained of, it is hoped, will be soon, in a great measure, if not entirely, removed ;

and the corn and flit mills, in its immediate vicinity, rendered easily accessible from the S. as well as the N. side of the Clyde.

Public Works, &c.—The Kelvin, over which is built the great aqueduct bridge, described in the account of New Kilpatrick, empties itself into the Clyde, at the Ferry now mentioned, and forms one of the most considerable additions it receives during the whole of its course. From that noble monument of attention to internal improvement in this part of Scotland, till the Kelvin join the Clyde. it is the eastern boundary of this parish; and its several windings are not less than 3 miles in length. Its banks exhibit a beautiful variety of landscape, and are entirely covered in some places on both sides, with wood of different kinds, in a very thriving state, which has been mostly planted within these 40 years. Not to mention the public works carried on along the E. side of Kelvin in the space already described, there are on the W., which alone falls to be taken notice of here, 3 yarn bleachfields, and 2 for the bleaching and printing of cloth; 3 corn mills, 1 for the making of snuff, 1 for the making of paper, 1 for the grinding of ink powder, pot ashes, &c., 1 for chipping, and 1 for rasping yellow and logwood. Snuff was not manufactured here before the year 1750. Till that period, from 1634, what is now converted into a snuff-mill, had been used for grinding corn, and is said to have been the first of that kind upon the water of Kelvin. The rasp and chip mills were both erected by their present proprietor, Mr. John Duncan, in the year 1760, and were the first in the W. of Scotland.

Besides these works on Kelvin, there is a considerable

bleachfield on the S. side of the Clyde, in the immediate vicinity of the village of Govan; and a cotton mill, which gives employment to about 100 persons of different ages, and is driven by a steam engine, has been lately built about 2 miles nearer Glasgow, almost upon the western boundary of the lands annexed *quoad sacra* to the parish of Gorbals.

Fish.—So full an enumeration of the different kinds of fish found in the Clyde has appeared in the account of Glasgow, that a detail of those found in it, as it passes through this parish, would certainly be deemed superfluous. The salmon fishery is here a considerable object of attention. The annual rent it has lately brought to the heritors, is 49l. Sterling.

Minerals, &c.—In the ground on both sides of the river, there is plenty of free stone of different qualities: and of such clay as is used in making brick, there is, in several places, great abundance. The coal work, mentioned in the Statistical Account of Gorbals, is in the land disjoined from Govan by the Presbytery. Coal has been wrought for many years, about a mile and an half N. from the Ferry, and a new pit has lately been opened at nearly the same distance from it in the opposite direction. But notwithstanding this, a cart containing 12 cwt. costs in the village of Govan, at least a shilling more than in Glasgow*.

Agriculture.

* Thirty years ago, the doctrine of mechanics in general was not so well understood in this country as in later times, and the species of machinery used in the raising of coal, had not reached that perfection to which it has now attained: yet a cart, containing somewhat less than 12 cwt., for which 3s. would now be paid, could then be purchased at so low a price as 1s. 6d. The value
of

Agriculture.—There is perhaps no parish in the W. of Scotland, where agriculture is better understood, or has been carried, within these 40 years, to greater perfection than in Govan. The soil is various, but by no means naturally fertile. That nearest to the river is mostly a light loam. In the higher grounds, and towards the foot of the rise, the tendency is generally more or less to clay and till; and the middle of that part of the plain, which lies on the S. side of the river, though a considerable proportion of it be now highly improved, appears to have consisted originally of a barren sand, covered with heath. In the S. and S. W. parts of this parish, besides what has been lately made to yield very rich crops, or is planted with Scotch fir, there is still more than 100 acres of moss, upon which the husbandman is seldom to be seen, but in the season for the casting of peats; and of these, the quantity that is yearly prepared, is very inconsiderable; because, being of a quality greatly inferior to those brought into Glasgow from other quarters, there is no demand for them in that market; and they are used by the inhabitants of the S. division of the parish only for kindling their fires.

The lands of Govan are generally well enclosed and divided; and a considerable proportion of those on the S. side of the river is farmed by the proprietors themselves. With the industry and activity of the farmers, which are nowhere more conspicuous, several other circumstances have evidently concurred, in bringing this parish

of money has, no doubt, during that time, been greatly diminished, and coal was formerly wrought nearer to the village than at present; but whether either, or both of these circumstances, along with the additional depth of the coal, will sufficiently account for the extraordinary rise of the price of fuel in this parish, shall be left to others to determine.

parish to its present state of improvement. Its vicinity to Glasgow, which, till lately, has, for a number of years, been increasing with astonishing rapidity, procures a sure and ready market for its produce, and furnishes a most convenient and plentiful supply of the best manure; and as no less than 4 branches of the King's highway run through the parish, the carriage to Glasgow of the articles it produces, and of the manure brought from thence, particularly on the S. side of the Clyde, is attended with no sort of difficulty. But the circumstance, which, of all others, contributed most to the agricultural improvement of Govan, was the trial of Tull's System of Husbandry, by Mr. Cross of Parkhouse, late sheriff of Lanarkshire. Till that gentleman began his experiments about 40 years ago, farming here had made very small proficiency, and local advantages were but little improved. His liberal enterprising mind wished to give the theories of that time a fair and complete trial, and thereby to promote the good of his country, though little profit should, in the mean time, accrue to himself. Of the thorough working and cleaning of ground, he was anxious to learn the full effect; and to these he applied with unremitting assiduity. In process of time, he found, that these, without manure, were not enough for raising good crops of any kind; but by the crops which, for a considerable number of years, he had raised successively upon the same ground, entirely without manure, he directed the attention of his neighbours to what is chiefly beneficial in farming; and some of them gratefully acknowledge the benefit they derived from his industry and perseverance at this day. He was the first who tried the effect of drilling in this part of the country, and found it, upon the whole, to turn out exceedingly

exceedingly well. In this way of sowing turnip, of which, from a too well founded apprehension of secret consumption, the quantity raised annually in Govan is inconsiderable, he is pretty generally followed, and in the planting of potatoes, universally. He always gave a preference to broad drills*; but in that has not been followed, though a gentleman, who is one of the most intelligent farmers in the parish, and who was particularly acquainted with the sheriff, is clearly of opinion, that they not only yield as profitable crops as the broad † drills, but are greatly more beneficial to the ground. In this parish, there is not less than 250 acres planted with potatoes every year; and of these, the average produce is 35 bolls the acre. The ordinary rotation of crops is potatoes, wheat laid down with grass-seeds for 2 years, and then oats. Some sow barley, others oats after wheat, and lay them down with grass. Beans and peas are not brought into the rotation, except in the higher grounds, where the soil, generally tending to clay, is more favourable for their production. The best ‡ farmers have, some seasons, 13 bolls of wheat upon an acre; but that is considerably above the average quantity. Flax is sown only for private use. The harvest is usually early; and frequent showers during the summer are, in the low grounds, always succeeded by the richest crops.

The draught horses in this parish, are mostly above the common size. The mode of farming generally practised renders this necessary. Not to speak of the heavy carts of dung brought out of Glasgow, the plough used
in

* The broad drill is 3 feet wide, the narrow from 1½ to 2.

† In the Author's MS. the word is *great*, probably, by mistake, for *narrow*.

‡ The farm principally alluded to is the property of James Ritchie, Esq. of Buthie.

in the greater part of the parish is drawn by 2 horses * ; and it has, of late, been found, that 2 harrows, so constructed and joined together, as to take an equal hold of the ground, may be drawn by 2 such horses managed by one man, and do nearly as much execution as 4 unconnected with one another, drawn by 4 smaller horses, which require 2 men. From the richness of the pasture, in general, it is likewise found expedient to keep milch-cows, of a pretty large size. The number annually fattened in the parish, is not great. They are of a smaller size, and are usually brought from the Highlands. There is only 1 sheep farm in the parish, which consists of about 108 acres. The inundations of the Clyde prevent it from being profitably kept in tillage.

As a consequence of the spirit for farming that has been introduced into Govan, it is entitled to notice, that the implements of husbandry are all of the most approved kind. Instead of possessing that aversion to innovation, which prevails in many other parts of Scotland, the farmers, in general, so far as the writer of this has had an opportunity of observing, discover a laudable emulation to be foremost in improvement of every kind. Of the threshing machines invented by the ingenious Mr. Meikle, the first in this part of the country was erected more than 4 years ago, by a Mr. John Paterfson of this parish ; and a considerable farmer in the neighbourhood having seen from his, their great utility in the abridgement of labour, has lately followed his example.

The valued rent of the whole parish is 4962l. 17s. 7d. Scotch. Its real rent, owing to a number of the heritors farming their own lands, is not accurately known ; but from the very advanced state of improvement, must necessarily

* One man manages the horses, and holds the plough.

necessarily be high, probably upwards of 6000*l*. Sterling. It is divided in very unequal portions, among 63 proprietors, a few of whom only have held their possessions for any considerable length of time. In the parish, several of the greatest proprietors reside almost constantly. Its vicinity to a place of extensive trade and manufactures, added to its healthy and pleasant situation, makes it very desirable for summer residence.

Population, &c.—Besides the village of Govan, which contains 224 families, there are 2 more in the parish so considerable, that in the one, which is a little N. from the Clyde, there are 115 families, and in the other, upon the road to Eastwood, 35. Few of the houses in any of these have been lately built. The old houses, in general, are ill aired, and extremely incommodious. Cleanliness is by no means sufficiently attended to by the lower classes of the people; and the water which, till lately, was suffered to stagnate on both sides of the publick road through the village of Govan (which is about a mile in length), was highly offensive to travellers. The villagers seemed, however, from their being at no pains to drain it, not to consider it as any nuisance; and though the effluvia arising from it, could not be of a salubrious quality, it has been long remarked, that the people are generally exceedingly healthy, and that many of them reach a very advanced age.

In 1755, when the village of Gorbals was included in the parish of Govan, the population of the whole, according to Dr. Webster, amounted to 4389. That village, and the lands joined to it *quoad sacra*, appear now to contain 5800 souls. From an enumeration made chiefly in the course of last year, there are in the parish of

Govan, exclusive of the people employed from other parishes, during a great part of the season, at the print and bleachfields above mentioned, 2518.

Of these there are Males,	-	-	1266
Females,	-	-	1252
Under 8 years of age,	-	-	532
Between 8 and 80,	-	-	1963
Between 80 and 90,	-	-	21
Between 90 and 100,	-	-	2

Instead, therefore, of placing 5000 under the head of increase from Gorbals since 1755, as in the table prefixed to the 5th volume of this work, the amount from both parishes ought not to exceed 3929 souls *.

Church, Manse, &c.—The † church is very commodious,

* Of burials, no register has been kept; nor can the register of baptisms and marriages give a distinct idea of the number either of the one or of the other, in any given time; because the Dissenters, who reside mostly in the villages, and of whom there are 75 families, have long been generally accustomed to neglect the registration of their childrens names; and clandestine marriages, of which there are no register, have been, among the lower people, most absurdly common.

† The following notes were obligingly communicated by a gentleman who had some time ago occasion to look over, with a different view, some old papers in the possession of the College and Town of Glasgow. The information they contain may be relied upon, though the authorities could not, without a good deal of trouble, be produced, as they happened not to make a part of the notes.

“ The church of Govan appears to have been originally mortified by King
 “ David I. to the church of St. Mungo of Glasgow. The deed of mortifica-
 “ tion is entered in the chartulary of Glasgow, the original of which is kept in
 “ the Scots College at Paris, and the only full copy in Scotland is in the li-
 “ brary of the University of Glasgow. The church of Govan appears to have
 “ been served, before the Reformation, by a parson, who was, *ex officio*, one
 “ of

ious, and in good condition. It was rebuilt in 1762, and completely seated very soon after. Its situation is the most convenient for the parishioners at large that could have been fixed upon. It stands 126 yards from the Clyde, and about the same distance from the road between Glasgow and Greenock. The spire, which was part of the original plan, was from some accidental occurrence, left unfinished, and still remains in the same state. To the repairs, however, now making upon the entry and church-yard wall, to prevent the burying-ground from being indecently used, as hitherto, like a common thorough fare, and place of diversion, it is intended by the heritors to add this very becoming ornament to the house they have appropriated for the worship of the Most High: And while it will be a great addition to the beauty of the place, and an agreeable object to the eye of a traveller, it will at this time (November 1793) be a most grateful testimony from them, as

O o 2

Britons

" of the chapter of the see of Glasgow. In whom the right of presenting the
 " person of Govan was vested, before the Reformation, does not clearly ap-
 " pear; though it is probable, that it belonged to the archbishop and his chap-
 " ter. After the Reformation, the right of presenting was exercised by the
 " Crown. James Beaton was archbishop of Glasgow at the time of the Re-
 " formation. In consequence of its establishment, he left the country with
 " the French fleet, in July 1560; and the Queen, on 3d October 1561, pre-
 " sented Mr. Stephen Beaton to the parsonage of Govan, *jure coronæ*. Upon
 " the decease of Mr. Stephen Beaton, the Crown presented. His Majesty
 " James VI., patron of the benefice, 13th July 1577, granted a charter, un-
 " der the great seal of the College of Glasgow, by which he conveyed " totam
 " et integram rectoriam et vicariam ecclesiæ parochialis de Govan, cum om-
 " nibus decimis fructibus, deditibus proficiis emolumentis divoriis manfis
 " gleba, terris ecclesiasticis ejusdem, et suis pertinen. jacen. infra diocesum
 " Glasguen et vicecomitatum nostrum de Renfreu." And this charter con-
 " tains an order to the archbishop, or, in his absence, to any minister within
 " the diocese, to give institution and possession of the benefice to the college."

Britons and as Christians, of their utter abhorrence of the wanton impiety and sacrilegious effrontry, which are become the predominant features of the French nation, and which their Convention's extravagant changes in the computation of time, will only more effectually expose to the honest indignation of posterity.

The stipend since 1762, when it received a small addition, has been 2 chalders of bear, 2 of meal, and 500 l. Scotch. The court of teinds last year, augmented it to 4 chalders of bear, 4 of meal, and 600 l. Scotch, including allowance for communion elements. The glebe and grass-ground consist of 7 acres, and upwards. The patronage of the parish belongs to the College of Glasgow. The manse, and a complete court of offices, are entirely new: They cost near 500 l. Sterling; and the readiness with which the heritors agreed to assess themselves in so considerable a sum, stands unexampled, perhaps, in most places of Scotland.

School.—Besides the parochial school, which is kept in the village of Govan, by the same person who holds the office of session-clerk, there are 4 private schools in the parish. The parochial schoolmaster has no dwelling-house from the heritors, but lately obtained from them a salary of 200 merks Scotch. With this, his different emoluments, of which the most considerable arises from a mortification made in 1757, by Abram Hill, a native of the parish, for the education of 10 poor children, amount, exclusive of school fees, to little less than 40l. Sterling a-year.

Poor.—There are, at present, upon the parish roll 21 poor people, who are supported by the voluntary collections at the church doors, and the interest of 420l. Sterling,

Sterling, which has hitherto been paid very punctually. This fund, with fines for irregular marriages, and the usual deductions from the session-clerk's fees, likewise admits of the distribution of 4l. or 5l. Sterling at the end of every half year, to poor householders, who do not receive regular assistance, and of occasional supply to such as are found to stand in need of it, between the months of June and January; when those who are thought by the heritors and kirk-session, to be in need of constant charity, are put upon the poors roll. The whole sum annually distributed, is about 60l. Sterling*.

Antiquities, &c.—On the lands belonging to Sir John Maxwell of Pollock, about 2 miles S. E. of the church, are the remains of an old castle, of Gothic architecture, the walls of which, though built in 1585, are yet mostly entire. It appears to have been a building of considerable strength, and was, for a long time, the jointure-house of the Pollock family. The following inscription over the door, upon a stone nearly of a triangular form, is now scarcely legible.

1585.
NI DOMIN
ÆDES STRVXE
RIT FRVSTRA STRVIS
SIR JOHN MAXWELL OF POLLOCK KNY
GHT AND D MARGARET CONYNGHÄ
HIS WYFE BIGGET THIS HOWS

On

* In so populous a parish, the number of poor to be thus maintained would, in all probability, be considerably larger, were not pretty liberal support given to their members, when in want, by two societies in the parish, with one or both of which most of the inhabitants are connected; and whose funds, from the great exertions to procure new members at the annual election of their deacons, are in a very prosperous state. It is to be sincerely regretted, however, that these elections are frequently preceded by a vast deal of dissipation.

On an elevated situation very near to Kelvin, and not many hundred yards from the Clyde, stand the ruins of an edifice erected in 1611, and known by the name of the Bishop's Castle. It was the country residence of the * Bishop of Glasgow. In the bleachfield near to the village of Govan, which was already taken notice of, there is an artificial mound of a conical shape. Its perpendicular height is 17 feet. At the base, it is 150 feet in diameter, and at the top 102. It is commonly called, The Hillock, and was probably one of the † law hills upon which courts of justice used to be held in ancient times, which are to be met with in some other parts of Scotland. What chiefly favours this conjecture is, that the oldest people in the neighbourhood remember its being known by the name of Doomsterhill. It may be here mentioned, as a circumstance a little uncommon, that on the northern boundary of the parish, the counties of Dumbarton, Lanark, and Renfrew, the parishes of New Kilpatrick, Govan, and Renfrew, and the property of 3 heritors in these several parishes, all meet in one point.

Character

* It was added to the notes, inserted in p. 290, by the gentleman there mentioned, "I now forget my authority, but remember to have read somewhere, that the lands of Patrick, which lie in the parish of Govan, were gifted by David I. to the Bishop of Glasgow, who built a mansion-house there, in which he resided during summer; and that about the time of the Reformation, he leased the surrounding lands to the ancient tenants. The residence of the bishop and his court in this place, no doubt, gave rise to the adjoining village of Partick, as tradesmen would naturally settle near the bishop's residence, for the accommodation of his household, and of those who frequented that establishment." From the lands being called in the deed of conveyance, as the same gentleman thinks, *illam particulum terra*, it is easy to account for the name Partick.

† See Pinkerton's Inquiry into the History of Scotland, p. 413, 414.

Character and Disadvantages.—For industry and activity, as was formerly remarked, the farmers here are eminently distinguished. The superior classes are social, hospitable, liberal to their poor, and generally regular in attending the ordinances of religion. From a great part of the operative people in the villages, 279 of whom are weavers, temperance, it is much to be lamented, has not obtained a place among the cardinal virtues. There are no fewer than 22 ale, or rather whisky houses in the parish; and had it not been taken from the Excise officers books, it might be thought incredible, that when the cotton manufacture was in a flourishing state, 1500 gallons of whisky were consumed in the village of Govan, in a single quarter of a year. To this quantity, any supposititious addition to the prejudice of the revenue, need surely not be made, even by the most uncharitable.

In such a district, and where there is no * civil magistrate to enforce subordination, and to punish crimes, what can be expected, but that the children should have been neglected in their education; that many of the youth should be unacquainted with the principles of religion, and dissolute in their morals; and that licentious cabal should too often usurp the place of peaceable and sober deportment.

Notice was formerly taken of the inconvenience to which the village of Govan is subjected, with regard to fuel; and it still farther deserves attention, that there is no standard by which the weight and carriage of coals are regulated

* If neighbouring justices were, at stated intervals, to hold regular courts in so large villages, they might essentially promote the best interests of their country. They would be a terror to evil doers, and a protection to all that do well.

regulated. The consequence of which is, a poor householder pays the same price for 9 or 10, as for 12 cwt. ; and from want of a civil magistrate, has no mode of redress, when he thinks himself wronged. There is no baker in the place, no butcher, and no publick market of any kind. All sorts of provisions, therefore, excepting meal and potatoes, cost the inhabitants more than if they lived in Glasgow ; because they must go thither to purchase them, and afterward bring them home. The villagers, indeed, are chiefly supplied with loaf bread, sent to them from Glasgow ; but the trouble of sending it must be compensated in some way or other ; and no way is so easy for the baker, as a proportional diminution of the weight.

NUMBER

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF KEMBACK.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF ST.
ANDREW'S.

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES M'DONALD.

Extent, Soil, Surface, Climate, &c.

ABOUT the origin of the name of the parish, there does not exist even a probable conjecture. It stretches in length from E. to W. about 4 miles, and its greatest breadth from S. to N. is about a mile. Its eastern extremity is distant about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from St. Andrew's, and its western approaches within half a mile of Cupar. It contains about 1850 acres, of which more than 1500 are arable. Of the remainder, some part was planted several years ago; and the plantations, consisting principally of Scotch fir, are in so thriving a state, that they afford a strong inducement to the several proprietors to appropriate the rest of their moorish ground to the same use. Almost all the varieties of soil are to be found here, clay, black loam, light sandy soil, with a

dry bottom, and thin gravel, with a wet clay bottom. Of these, all, except the last, are tolerably fertile, and produce, by proper management, good crops of all the plants commonly raised by farmers in this country. The surface of the ground, on the W. side of the parish, is nearly level, sloping gently from S. to N.; but on the E. side, Nature, in the formation of its surface, seems to have indulged herself in a sportive mood, by throwing it into a variety of the most irregular and fantastic shapes: it rises above the level of the W. side about 70 or 80 feet; and the elevations in several places are so sudden and abrupt, as to render the cultivation of the fields very expensive, and even dangerous, and the roads, from one part of the parish to the other, almost inaccessible. The air and climate are favourable to health. Endemic diseases are unknown. The people in general are healthy, and sometimes reach extreme old age. There are at present several persons in the parish between 80 and 90 years of age.

Character of the People, &c.—The inhabitants of this parish are not distinguished from their neighbours, by any peculiarity of character. In general, they are sober minded, industrious, and temperate; decent in their manners, attending to their own business, living in peace with one another, and giving regular attendance upon the public ordinances of religion. During the incumbency of the present minister, which comprehends a period of nearly 13 years, there has not occurred a single instance of any person belonging to this parish suffering the slightest punishment from a civil judge.

Population.—The return to Dr. Webster in 1755 was

420 souls. According to an account taken about half a year ago, the number of inhabitants is as follows :

Belonging to the Established Church,	540
Burgher Seceders, - - -	13
Antiburgher Seceders, - -	28
Of the Presbytery of Relief, -	3
Episcopalian, - - -	1
Anabaptist, - - -	1
Unitarians, - - -	2
<hr/>	
In all,	588

Of the 540 belonging to the Established Church, 300 are females, and 240 males ; so that the proportion of males to females is exactly as 4 to 5. There are among them 7 widowers, and 15 widows.

State of Agriculture, &c.—Agriculture hath been held in high estimation in all ages, by those persons whose splendid talents and eminent virtues have entitled them to be regarded as instructors and patterns to the rest of mankind. The Romans, who attained a pitch of grandeur which hath seldom been equalled in the history of nations, paid the most particular attention, from the earliest times, to this delightful and useful art. It was the occupation of their wisest statesmen and bravest generals, when they were not necessarily engaged in the deliberations of the senate, or exploits of the field. Cincinnatus was found at the plough, when he was called upon by his countrymen to assume the supreme administration of public affairs. And though that high-spirited and warlike people engaged in the service of the state with the promptest alacrity, and marched out to meet

their enemies with the most heroic ardour, yet they gladly exchanged the fatigues of war for the pure and healthful pleasures of a country life. When it was no longer necessary to bear arms, they beat their swords into plough-shares, and their spears into pruning hooks; and solaced their minds, after the horrors of war, with the delightful contemplation of that variety of natural beauty which, from time to time, the fields present to the eye of the industrious and enlightened husbandman. And as the greatest of their heroes dignified this profession, by sharing in its toils, the sublimest of their poets made it the subject of the most finished work, perhaps, of which antiquity can boast, that he might entice his countrymen to the study of agriculture, by adorning it with all the graces and beauties of the most exquisite poetry. In Scotland, considerable attention has of late been applied to the improvement of this important art. Many excellent treatises have been written upon the subject, by men of eminence in the literary world, who, by devoting a portion of their time and talents to the study of agriculture, are no doubt entitled to the gratitude of their countrymen. Of these, none seem deserving of higher praise than the celebrated Author of *Elements of Criticism*, who, in his *Gentleman Farmer*, hath brought together a collection of facts and observations, which, to the judicious farmer, are of inestimable value, and will stand the test of ages. And it must afford every sincere lover of his country very high satisfaction, to see that Board of Agriculture, which Lord Kames so strongly recommends, actually established by Government, with such a prospect of its answering the important purposes for which it was instituted*.

In

* Before, however, books on farming can operate as means of general
im-

In this parish, till very lately, the capital improvements which farming has received during the course of the present century, have not been generally adopted. Within the recent period of 12 years, neither turnips nor artificial grasses of any kind were sown in the largest farm in the parish. The fields, after being exhausted by cropping, were resigned in succession to pasture, and remained in that condition several years, producing scanty crops of natural grasses, till it became necessary to break them up again for corn; and the instruments of husbandry corresponded in clumsiness with the rudeness of the mode of cultivation. Of late, however, things have assumed a very different appearance. Turnips are raised in every farm. The rotation of crops is sometimes such as the best writers on husbandry recommend; the fields are laid down with a plentiful allowance of clover and rye grass, and the ploughs, and harrows, and carts, &c. are generally of the best construction. Still, however, to an accurate and judicious observer, there may perhaps appear room for much future improvement, both in the formation and in the execution of the plans adopted by farmers here for the management of their grounds.

Improvement; before a person can be qualified for reading such books with advantage, it would be necessary for him to go through a more complete course of education, than can be commonly obtained at a country parish school. A considerable acquaintance with the English language, arithmetick, book-keeping, and mensuration, are qualifications without which a farmer can neither make himself master of the improvements made in the art, nor prosecute these improvements in a manner either beneficial to himself or his country. This, by the way, shows the necessity of giving greater encouragement to public teachers, than is at present done; as there is not, perhaps, any single circumstance that would conduce so much to the advancement of agriculture in Scotland, as making provision for the proper education of that class of men by whom the art is to be carried on.

grounds. Of the improvements above mentioned, the causes are no doubt various. One of the principal of them, however, certainly is, the attention which several of the gentlemen who reside on their estates have themselves paid to husbandry. By introducing into the small farms in their own possession the most approved system of management for the different kinds of soil, they have exhibited an example to their tenants, which, conspiring with other causes, has produced the change of culture mentioned above, a change no less beneficial to the proprietor and tenant, than delightful to the judicious spectator.

For 2 or 3 years past, it has been the custom, in different parts of the parish, to raise potatoes from seed, in order to prevent degeneracy, to procure greater variety of kinds, and more abundant crops; and there is little doubt, that in this way these desirable ends will be attained. There is another article of improvement, which has been lately introduced, which promises to be a substantial and permanent benefit. I mean, the use of rutabaga, or Swedish turnip. This plant is either sown in the field, like common turnip, and treated in the same manner, or sown in a seed bed like cabbage, and transplanted at the distance of 10 or 12 inches in the drill. In point of taste and flavour, it is greatly superior even to yellow turnip; and though in many respects similar to turnip, it possesses some peculiar qualities which seem to render it well calculated to serve in spring as a succedaneum to turnip, and to afford green food for cattle till they can be put to grass. It is considerably more solid than common turnip. Its specific gravity to that of common turnip being nearly as 1013 to 878; (it may be proper to mention, however, that the accuracy of
this

this proportion rests on a single experiment). It resists frost better than turnip; after shooting in the spring, the root still remains juicy and succulent, and even after the seed is ripened upon the stalk, a considerable part of the root remains fit for the use of cattle.

Threshing machines have been lately introduced here, and though there has not been time for them to receive the sanction of experience in their favour, yet as they perform a great quantity of work in a very short time, and cut off almost every opportunity of embezzlement, they promise to constitute a valuable improvement upon an extensive farm.

There are no fewer than 3 corn mills in the parish; but, from this circumstance, little or no benefit accrues to the inhabitants in the way of competition, as almost all the lands are bound thirle to one or other of them. The multure exacted by these mills, is, I believe, almost precisely the same. It cannot be expressed in general terms, because it is drawn in grain, and partly in meal. By a calculation upon oats, I found, that when the boll of oats produces a boll of meal, the multure is $\frac{1}{13}$ th, and when the boll produces only 3 firlots of meal, the multure is $\frac{1}{12}$ th of the quantity sent to the mill. This suggests an inducement, which, along with many others, should dispose farmers to pay attention to raise grain of the best quality, as the multure is always less in proportion as the quality is finer.

The rents of farms are various. Of late, there has appeared in this neighbourhood a tendency to offer higher rents for farms, than the average prices of corn and cattle, and the improvements of the art seemed to justify. The same spirit of unfounded speculation, which had pervaded several other orders of society, seized upon farmers.

ers. This spirit in farming, however, as well as in trade and manufactures, has received a check from the state or the times: Had it proceeded much farther, it would have produced the most fatal consequences. It would have proved an effectual bar to every species of agricultural improvement, because the farmers bound to pay more than the land could produce, would soon have found themselves in a state of bankruptcy and ruin; and it would have necessarily fostered in the country that spirit of dissatisfaction, which almost invariably accompanies the feeling of distress.

In this parish, the rent of land still continues moderate; there is only 1 or 2 small farms which let so high as 20s. the acre, and the best land in the parish is, at present, let considerably under that rate. The largest farm in the parish consists of about 270 acres. There are in the parish about 122 horses, 437 cattle, and from 80. to 100 swine. Every cottager almost feeds a pig for the use of his family.

Rivers.—The river Eden is the northern boundary of the parish. Of this stream the course is not straight, but forms many beautiful serpentine windings, the banks sometimes almost level with the surface of the water, and sometimes rising above it to the height of 40 or 50 feet; and at the eastern extremity of the parish, the river forms a curve of so curious a kind, that it shapes about an acre of land, which it nearly surrounds, into the figure of a guitar, with the broad end opposed to the water on the E. side.

The portion of the Eden belonging to this parish, abounds both with river and sea trout. The river trout are of two kinds, red and white. They begin to be in
season

season in March, but are in highest perfection in April and May. The largest will weigh about 2 lbs. English weight; the middle size from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to a lb. The sea trout are also of 2 kinds, red and white. They begin to come up from the sea in May. The largest are about 3 lbs., and the common size about 1 lb.

There is a small salmon-fishing too upon the Eden in this parish. The salmon begin to appear in the river in May, but are generally more frequent in June and July. They are commonly sold at 4d. the lb, English. About 30 years ago, the average number of salmon caught, was 3 score; and the average number caught in the part of the river belonging to Nyddie, which borders with this parish, was 12 score. For several years past, both fishings have been occupied by the same persons; and though no exertion of industry and skill has been neglected, the average number of both hath not exceeded 4 score. The cause of this deficiency, however, it does not seem easy to ascertain with any degree of probability.

Mines and Minerals.—Of free stone, there are vast quantities in the parish. Veins, both of coal and lime, have been also found in it; but of these last, the expense of working has been hitherto so great, that though several attempts have been made at different times, they have always proved unprofitable speculations. In the year 1722, a discovery was made at the foot of a pretty high hill at Myretown of Blebo of a quantity of metal in large pieces, which, upon trial, proved to be rich lead ore. This circumstance induced the proprietor, Mr. John Bethune of Blebo, with some of his friends, to form themselves into a company, to work, dig, and search

for the whole metals and minerals upon the lands of Blebo.

In the course of their trials, they found at Myretown, a little below the place where the ore was discovered, a vein in the solid rock, about 2 feet wide, containing spar, and other vein stuff, mixed with large spots or flowers of fine ore; and in another place, about half a mile W. from the former, they discovered a nest of the purest lead ore, containing large lumps, one of 24 stones, and several of 10 or 12 stones, and the rest smaller; and a little below the nest, a vein of about a foot wide, in working of which, in a small level, they came to a rib of pure metal of about 3 inches, which increased to 6 inches. But as the levels to both lay through rocks so excessively hard, as could only be wrought with gunpowder, the expense of the work became so great, that it was thought proper to dissolve the company. About 3 tons of lead were manufactured, and exported to Holland*.

Curiosities.—The parish is intersected from S. to N. by

* Afterward, in the year 1748, a gentleman, from the county of Mid-Lothian, Captain William Thynne, took a lease of the mines and minerals in the lands of Blebo, and came with a few workmen, and made a trial at Myretown, where the vein appears in the solid rock. Both he and his workmen thought the appearance promising; but, in a few weeks after the commencement of the work, Captain Thynne received an offer of going to the West Indies, to superintend some works there, which he accepted; and since that time, no new trials have been made. A few years ago, however, all the discoveries above stated, were communicated to a gentleman of great professional knowledge and experience in these matters; and he gave it as his opinion, that, very probably, something of importance may be stumbled upon in the neighbourhood; and that, therefore, it would be proper to open up and examine the old works, especially as the expense of such an examination would not exceed the sum of 200*l.* Sterling.

by a small rivulet called Ceres burn, which falls into the Eden a little below Kemback mill. The banks of this stream on both sides rise to a great height, in a great variety of inclinations, forming a den, called the Den of Dura, which presents an assemblage of wild grandeur and natural beauty, such as is very rarely to be met with. Of this den, the windings are about a mile in length; and, on both sides, the eye is delighted with a rich variety of picturesque and romantic scenery. The banks in some parts slope gently towards the water, and are covered with a beautiful verdure of grass, affording pasture for sheep; in other parts, they are perpendicular, or overhang the stream at an elevation of 50 or 60 feet; and in one place, the bank on the W. side, forms itself into the figure of a very extensive amphitheatre. Here and there we meet with small plantations of ash and oak, and fir, and gean; and where the banks are steepest, they present a surface of broken faced rocks towards the bottom, and higher up, are covered with large thickets of wild hazles, which produce great quantities of nuts. It is not easy to conceive a scene more beautiful, or more highly diversified than this den exhibits in the summer months. The murmuring noise of the stream, running along its rocky channel, the music of birds, the fragrance of woodbine and eglantine, the beautiful blossoms of the furze and the broom, and the gean interspersed with the different shades of verdure of the oak, the ash and the fir, joined to the wild variety of views, which every step almost presents, conspire to render it one of the most delicious spots, which nature, without the assistance of art, can form.

School, &c.—In this parish, for 30 years past, the in-

habitants have suffered a great hardship from the want of a proper public teacher for their children *. The salary is only 100 merks Scots. And here I cannot help remarking again, that a proper provision for the education of youth in the country parishes of Scotland, so as to give them an opportunity of acquiring at home the principles of grammar and a considerable knowledge of arithmetick, book-keeping, and mensuration, is a national object of much greater magnitude than is generally supposed : It is certainly essentially necessary to general improvement in the art of agriculture, an art upon the advancement of which the happiness of individuals, and the prosperity of the nation, in a great measure, depend. At present, the salaries and perquisites of established schoolmasters in the country, are, in general, so exceedingly small, that they do not exceed, and often hardly equal, the wages of an ordinary mechanick ; and it can scarcely be expected, that a person, properly qualified for communicating the necessary branches of education, will devote himself for such an income to the most laborious of all professions.

Heritors, Poors Funds, &c.—There are in this parish,
5 heritors

* The person who supplied the charge, though a man of blameless character and inoffensive manners, was not qualified for instructing youth in any single branch of education. The bad effects of spending in vain the few years that should have been devoted to the acquirement of useful knowledge, may easily be conceived, and will be felt for many years to come. About a twelvemonth ago, the heritors generously agreed to give the old schoolmaster an annuity of 11l. 10s. Sterling, during life, and his wife an annuity of 4l. Sterling during her life, after her husband's death ; upon condition of his resigning his office, which these annuities enabled him to do, without loss either to himself or family. He accepted the offer, and his place is now supplied by a student of divinity, a very deserving young man, and an excellent teacher.

3 heritors, 4 of whom reside. The valued rent of the parish is 2312l. 13s. 4d. Scotch money. The stipend is about 90l. a year, including communion elements. The church and manse are both old buildings. The school and school-house is a new building. The glebe consists of about 5 acres of good dry flat land, upon a sandy bottom, and is enclosed. The principal and professors of the united college of St. Andrew's, are patrons of the parish, and titulars of the teinds. The fund for the maintenance of the poor arises from the interest of 220l. Sterling, at 5 per cent. ; the rent of 1½th acres of land, and of several seats in the church, mortcloth-money, fees of proclamation, and collections at the church door on Sunday, and may amount to about 20l. or 25l. a year. The money at interest, and that with which the 1½th acres of land was purchased, seems to have arisen from the gradual accumulation of a long course of careful management. The only donation that appears to have been made to the session, is a legacy left about 2 years ago by Mrs. Margaret Bethune of Blebo, a lady whose beneficence to the poor during her lifetime, was most extensive and exemplary, and who, at her death, bequeathed to them the sum of 50l. Sterling. Of this legacy, however, only 30l. were added to the session funds ; the other 20l. were immediately distributed among the poor, to alleviate, in some measure, their grief for the loss of one of their greatest benefactors. With this small fund, the session is enabled to relieve the pressing necessities of several families of well disposed Christians, whom it hath pleased Providence to reduce to circumstances of distress, to soothe, in a small degree, the affliction of the widow and the fatherless, and to afford some little consolation to the infirmities and distresses of

of old age. But the smallness of the funds, and a virtuous feeling of decent pride, prevent many from applying and receiving assistance, who yet stand much in need of a small addition to the income arising from the fruits of their own industry.

Whether it be practicable in an advanced state of society, to introduce such meliorations into the situation of the labouring poor, as to enable them to rear a family of children, without suffering the extremes of hunger and nakedness, and to lay up a small pittance for their support in sickness and old age,—whether this be a practicable improvement, is a political question which it is not perhaps easy to resolve; but it is a certain fact, which often affects, with unavailing melancholy, the minds of those who are called by their profession to visit the poor, that common labourers, in the time of their strength, cannot afford to purchase for a numerous family of children, the bare necessities of life; and after 40, when the vigour of life is over, they generally languish and decay for want of the more delicate nourishment, which declining nature then seems to require. In the present state of things, it seems to be the intention of Providence, that even the industrious poor should depend, for a considerable share of their comfort in life, upon the generosity and beneficence of the rich among whom they live; and the rich are, in this way, furnished with an opportunity of gratifying the most amiable feelings of the human heart, and of practising virtues from which the mind derives at once the highest improvement and sweetest delight.

N U M B E R X I X .

UNITED PARISHES OF BIRSAY AND HARRAY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ORKNEY, PRESBYTERY OF
CAIRSTON.)

By the Rev. Mr. GEORGE LOW,

P A R I S H O F B I R S A Y .

Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.

IT is impossible for me to ascertain the ancient name of the parish, except from the Icelandic historians ; where we find, by Torfæus's History of Orkney, that St. Magnus, Earl and Saint of Orkney, was killed at Eaglethay, upon the spot that we believe now the kirk is erected, which is a steepled kirk. In Torfæus's History, the parish is called *In provincia de Byrgisberad*. In *Ionæi Orknyinga saga*, the name is much the same. After St. Magnus's death, he was brought from Eaglethay, and buried in the cathedral of Birsay *. These Icelandic historians speak much of the many miracles which

* Vide Keith.

which were performed at his tomb ; that I refer to them. Certain it is, that the first seat of the bishops of Orkney was in Birsay, as appears by the S. palace, a very small part of which is yet remaining ; and I do not wonder at it, because Birsay is one of the most beautiful spots that could be chosen for the clergy ; and they had good skill to choose them, as is well seen through all Scotland ; for they generally cultivated their spots well. The modern name of the parish is Birsay, which certainly is a corruption of the ancient one. The form of the parish I would take to be almost a square, or an oblong square ; for considering, from the sea side to the uttermost part of the parish, it may be $7\frac{1}{2}$ English miles ; from the bridge perfectly across, it, in my opinion, is 5 miles ; and, considering the hills and dales, I should compute the parish at $37\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, or thereabout. The parish is bounded on the W. and N. side by the sea. It is not mountainous, but is however hilly, containing much game, and pasture for cattle in the summer time. The soil is very various in the barony of Birsay ; the N. side in general is shallow, it being a mixture of clay and thin sand, in some places having a thin bottom of rock ; some parts of the upper end of the N. side having tolerable black ground, but rather wetish ; S. side, good sandy ground, but generally produces the steadiest crops, except when the sea bleaches it. As to other parts of the parish, I shall give a description of them. When I speak of the vile weeds that torment their corn, I shall add the quality of their ground, and why these weeds should be more prevalent there than in any other part of the parish.

Climate, &c.—The air in Birsay is generally moist,
but

but we seldom have much snow, because the sea air generally prevails against the frost. I have indeed seen the barometer up at set frost, and at the same time the thermometer down at 24; at which time, what we call strong beer, was frozen, while small beer broke the bottles by bursting.—As to the distempers in our parish, I do believe they proceed from cold and wetness, occasioned by wet clothes and inattention. Sometimes they produce nervous fevers, which affect women particularly; sometimes in the spring, sometimes in the harvest. In the inner part of the parish, I have often seen strong men, and very strong women, most severely dealt with by scarlet fevers, which are generally brought into this country by ships; and most other diseases in the same way *.

Lakes, Fish, &c.—We have 6 lakes in this parish, abounding with fine duck of different kinds, as also many other kinds of water fowl; but they are so very shy, that we can get none of them, most of the lakes being above a mile broad, and upwards of 4 miles round: 2 of them have plenty of swans in the spring and fall, be-

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* The small-pox generally visits us once in 4 or 5 years; when I and my good neighbours generally visit the children subject to them, and we apply plain washing with lukewarm water, which I never saw fail, especially when accompanied with clean linen. I have seen hundreds treated in this manner, none of which failed: I have likewise, at the same time, seen 5 inoculated, upon whom I could see no considerable odds; though the difference was very great between the natural small pox and those that were inoculated, as the natural small pox were so confluent, that I could not stick a pin point between them. However, the same treatment did for both; the children slept well, wakened refreshed, and soon got through the fever without any danger. The other diseases are, dropsies, which are generally fatal; the jaundice, which is often fatal, and many other complaints of less consequence.

ing grassy. There are 2 or 3 fine burns, one of which washes the middle of the barony, all full of fine trout; and sometimes, through the barony burn, a salmon, by chance, may run up, but always at an unseasonable time of the year. The extent of the sea coast is about 10 miles; the shore all rocky, except two little spots, which are stony, where our fishing boats come in. The fish caught in our parish, are a few poor cod, a few thin ling, a few haddocks now and then, a halibut now and then; and, in general, we have plenty of dog fish, caught upon hand lines, which all our fish are caught upon, being the custom of the parish. These dog fish are sold to the neighbouring parishes at about an average price of 6d. the dozen: the oil sold, for these few years past, at an average of 10d. the pint, or thereabout. The dog fish are best in June, July, and August, when they have their livers in prime; when that time passes, they go to the northward. There are numbers of small fish, such as coal fish, and all their fry, of different ages, down to a year old; at which time, I have seen them sold at the rate of 6d. the thousand, at the same time that worse fish of the same kind was sold in Edinburgh market at 6d. the dozen, or thereabout, under the name of podlies; ours are called fillicks*. Many other fish are caught about this coast, but in general in considerable quantities. called in this country milds, bergills, skate, fish and frog, and many other species that seldom are caught upon lines. Two of the best kinds of fish we have are the tusk and the stein-biter, but these are seldom caught. Numbers of whales of different kinds hover about the coast, but none are caught. A few of
the

* Vide Natural History.

The sun fish appear upon our coast, but none of them stricken. Sometimes, indeed, a small whale will come in, or a small shark; but in general they are of no consequence. Few or no fish are sent out of this parish to any proper market, except dog fish as above. Many other sea animals, plants, sponges, corals, shells, &c. are found upon this coast, which, to describe properly, would require a separate Latin treatise of itself. There is plenty of sea weed, of the larger and finer kinds, drove ashore by stormy weather; and all made use of for dunging the land, and a most valuable article it is, especially on the sea coast, where we are far from fuel; and by consequence, what house dung can be made, can go but a short way.

Kelp.—Our shores are not very large; they may produce, between the barony and Marwick, 17 or 18 tons, or thereabout, of kelp a-year. As to the price of making, it cannot be so well ascertained, the superior, till within these 3 years, having burnt it for himself by his tenants. The price greatly varies, since I came to this country, I have seen it as low as 2l. 10s. the ton, and sometimes at 9l.

Tides, &c.—As to the courses of our tides, the flood tide sets right in from the N. W. upon the point of the burgh of Birsay, from whence it splits, one part towards Evie Sound, where it goes away with a rapid stream towards Kirkwall; and the other part slips down by Sandwick shore, till it get in to the indraught of Hoy Sound, where it becomes very strong. As to rocks, we have three of what we call rims, which are generally occupied by our fishermen as their best fishing grounds:

and, by the best accounts we have had from them, the shoals of Marwick are 16 fathom; the S. head 14 fathom; and the rim shoals deepens from 20 to 40 fathom, or upwards, until they come to the N. head, which is only about 10 feet, all at low water. I have been upon these shoals several times; and I have good reason to believe, that what the fishermen say is true. No light-house is erected, and we think one could be of no service, because it might lead the shipping out of the W. Sea, where they could have no shelter. The only head lands we have are called Marwick Head, the Bragh Head, and the North Craig. The only harbours for boats are, Skibbaygoe; Castragoe for a summer place; as also one in the S. side of the barony, which contains 4 boats; one in Marwick, which contains 3, but it is only a summer habitation; for except they had Castragoe under lee, they could not keep a boat in Marwick or the S. side.

Mountains, &c.—There are no remarkable mountains in this parish; and as to hills, I never took the height of them by any proper mensuration, nor do I think them worth pains, because I really believe the barometer and thermometer would make them of but little height; they are nothing like Hoy: They are covered with heath, and what we call lubba, a sort of grass which feeds our cattle in the summer time; it generally consists of different species of carices, plain bent, and other moor grasses. No volcanic appearances, nor any figured stones, are to be seen in this parish; nor any have fossil, marine bodies, or any petrified parts of animals, yet been observed. There are indeed some springs, which throw up a species of lime, of no determined figure,

figure, and mixed with a few fresh water shells. As to marble, little is to be got in this parish, if any. What we call flag, which is a thick kind of slate, as also a thinner kind of coarse grey slate, both of which are used in covering farm, cottager, and other houses, are found in this parish, but not of a very good quality, nor in large quantities. We have plenty of other kinds of building stones, except free stone, of which I think we have none. All our stones are applied to the building of mere country houses. Sometimes the N. W. part of our parish is very subject to sea gusting, but no inundations.

In the misty year which all Europe felt, I observed a phenomenon at the manse of Birsay: The sun at mid day appeared very dusky, and surrounded with circles, curiously intersecting one another; of which I took a drawing, which is hereunto annexed.

Beasts, Birds, &c.—The wild quadrupeds of this parish are, rabbits, the brown or Norwegian rat, the short tailed field mouse, common mice, and a small species of mice, commonly called here wights, which I have never observed in Scotland. Amphibious animals are, the common seal and common otter; the skin of the latter sells at a high price, sometimes at a guinea, more or less, according to the season they are caught. The market for them is Hamburgh, and other places through the E. Sea.—We have plenty of the common rock birds, but none peculiar to this parish, all being found in the bold shores round Scotland.—The parish of Birsay is not more famous for a breed of black cattle than any of the neighbouring parishes; they are small, and generally

rally badly horned: We, however, sell a good number, which are either slaughtered for shipping, or pickled and sent to Leith in barrels, together with their hides and tallow. The prices, at an average, are about 181. Scots, which rise and fall according to the demand at market, particularly for hides and tallow, which settles the price.

Population.—The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, for Birsay and Harray, was 2200 souls *. As to the present population, &c. of the parish, it will appear from the following

STATISTICAL

* As to the number of the people, we have traced it for 100 years; but we suppose, the books have been ill kept, because we see the difference of marriages and baptisms in some years is very great, which we shall account for. About 110 years ago, namely, in the eighties, commonly called Brand's years, an universal sterility prevailed in Orkney, when the people died in hundreds; the lands were laid waste for want of strength both of man and beast, and no seed; many of the best places were totally relinquished; and the miserable skeletons of these ridges may be seen to this day. Even when they began to recover themselves, they were not able to manage their usual possessions, but just cut away the sword of the one part to put upon the top of the other, for want of manure; and thus the case appears till this very day.

Marriages in 1680 none.

In 1681 only 4.	Baptisms,	11.
In 1690 — 11.	Baptisms,	14.

As to the population of the parish, it will be seen by the foregoing list, and those that will follow. It has been fluctuating, for reasons that will be shown hereafter. The people at that time were perfectly stationary, and even laws were made for restricting them from leaving their own country, or even going aboard of ships; which had a very good effect in keeping people at home for recovering their state of desolation. But now the case is, for the better, otherwise.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Length in English miles,	7½	Married men and widowers,	127
Breadth, -	5½	Married women and widows,	269
Houses, cottages included,	275	Young men, from 10 years and	
Ploughs, - -	143	upwards, - -	113
Boats for fishing, -	18	Young women, from 10 years	
Fishermen, inhabitants of the		and upwards, - -	200
parish, - - -	144	Males below 10 years, -	179
Tailors, - - -	9	Females ditto, - -	172
Shoemakers, - - -	20	Men servants, from 10 years	
Wrights self-taught, -	11	and upwards, -	69
Weavers, serving an apprentice-		Women ditto, - -	37
ship for 2 years, - -	58	Male servants below 10 years,	19
Smiths, - - - -	3	Girls servants ditto, -	12
Millers, - - - -	3		<hr/> 1350

VALUE OF STOCK.

523 Horses, at an average of 3l. 10s. a-head,	L. 1830 10 0
700 Head of cattle, at an average of 1l. 5s. ditto,	875 0 0
1500 Sheep, at an average of 3s. ditto,	225 0 0

Value of the stock, as near as can be judged, * L. 2930 10 0

Productions,

* It should be adverted to, that the years 1739, 1740, and 1741, were bad years, in which many died for want; however, the state of these years cannot be well known at this time of day. The parish may not much differ from what it has been 5, 10, or 25 years ago, with regard to the annual births, and the whole population; but it must be attentively noticed, that there are great emigrations from our parish; numbers of our young people go to sea, to Hudson's Bay, and to trades out of the parish. Our young female people run off to Newcastle, Leith, and other places, and never take certificates, which is now out of fashion, and may be very discouraging to the more honest set; because every one now, it seems, takes servants just as they get them.—There are 3 or 4 old men about 80, but none above at present. I have known some arrive at 90 or 95 years. We have a number between 60 and 70; and, in general, our people arrive to a good old age; owing, I suppose, to temperance, drinking beer, and eating some animal food, working hard, and sleeping cheerfully, and following their employments with alacrity.

Productions, &c.—The productions of the parish are oats and bear, or big, as it is generally called, and in the gardens cabbage. The gardens will produce early cabbage and colliflower; as also onions, leeks, garlick, parsnips, carrots, turnips, and small sallad herbs: very fine flowers will in some years likewise blow, which I have tried. There are no trees.—We have taken notice of the number of sheep already; and the wool, in some small districts, is good; that about the shores is much hurt with the sand, which destroys its fabrick, and likewise spoils the mutton, by the sheep feeding upon sea ware. The parish supplies itself with provisions, and sells a little: in good years, it generally exports to the neighbouring towns. They sow their oats in March, and their bear about the latter end of April or beginning of May, old style; and begin to reap about the middle of August, and sometimes later, according to the season. A small quantity of marl is found, but of other curious earths we have none. Some bitumen, which is the substance of peats, is to be met with, and in some places

At an average, a marriage may produce five children; I have baptized three at one birth, and often twins. In my opinion, the average may be admitted.

Some, in the bad years, as mentioned before, died; but in the year 1789, &c. one died, and many were like to die. However, government gave them meal in these bad years, once for nothing; and once for payment. As to suicides, there are two that have happened in late remembrance: A man that drowned himself, for what reason is not known; another poor girl, in my time, had baked her own wedding bannocks, and, as may be supposed, out of some aversion to her sweetheart, threw herself away. Many are lost by accident, by boats, &c. None have been banished from this parish in our memory. None leave the parish for want of employment; indeed, we want hands, because our young fellows go off in hopes of greater wages, as the farmers well feel; the N. W., &c. being their bait.

places it will spring out of the rocks remarkably thin; in other places of the country, it is found of the consistence of pitch. The parish has this advantage, that part of it lies near the sea, and for that reason can have fish and oil enough to serve this parish and other parishes beyond it: At the same time, it is far from large boroughs, and must labour under a great disadvantage, by carrying its commodities to the towns of Kirkwall and Stromness, which are the greatest markets in this country.

Language.—As to the language, it is English, mixed with a Norwegian accent, owing to the ancient connexion between the two countries, but is now much bettered by our connexion with strangers, and by that of such of our own young men as have been abroad *.

Rent, Stipend, Poor, &c.—The valued rent of the parish is 3144l. 11s. Scots; the real rent depends upon the fiars, which are always at the will of the heritors. The value of the living, including the glebe, is 60l. The patron is Sir Thomas Dundas of Kerse, Baronet.—The church was repaired in 1760, and the manse was built in 1761; but both have been kept in bad repair ever

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since.

* All our names are derived from the Norwegian language. Every hill and every dale are of Norwegian derivation in this parish; as *Revegill*, *Garthnaia*, *Smearquoy*, that is to say, butter land; *Smerrablati*, as is pronounced here, that is, where good grass grows, which makes butter. Of other hills, are *Eringlefield*, *Bailiefield*, and other such names. As to our meadows, they are always called *Scaters*. Though I am little acquainted with the Norwegian language, I understand a *Scater* to be a place for maintaining milch cows; and these *Scaters* are to this moment properly adapted for it: we have many in this parish, namely, *Kirk-scater*, *Ubi-scater*, *Scater*, *Fol-scater*, *Overby-scater*, *Eastby-scater*, &c.

since. The number of heritors is 20; the superior, Sir Thomas Dundas, the greatest heritor non-residing; small heritors residing 11; non-residing 8.—The poor of this parish have been, at an average, about 14 or 15 these number of years, and the alms are collected by the hands of the elders in their boards, and given out, at the discretion of the session, to poor persons, according to their need. The parish really cannot clothe their poor, because their funds are too small. Legacies we have none. The annual produce of the alms of the parish is below 20s. Sterling a-year; to which may be added, the mortcloth money, as also the marriage money, which, by the custom of this country, is 1l. Scots each, which is really the property of the minister, as our public records can attest; but it is thrown into the public fund by the present minister, and he believes by most before him*.

Antiquities.

* As to the prices of provisions in this parish, we seldom buy or sell between one another; so that the prices cannot be well ascertained. But when a cow is disposed of, it may, at an average price, be sold at 16l. Scots; a sheep at 3s. Sterling; a swine at 5s. Sterling; butter at 5d. the mark of 1½ lb. avoirdupois; corn, counted by the superiors fiars up and down, and always paid by the name of malt, at 13½ stones each meil, the county fiar price at 6l. Scots each meil malt; and the oat meal sometimes 8l., sometimes 9l. Scots each meil, of the same weight.—We have no day-labourers in husbandry. As to boat carpenters, they are generally hired from Stromness, and work by the piece, at 2s. the foot of keel. Bricklayers or masons, we employ none; because our masons are self-taught. Tailors are generally paid in days victuals and corn by the inhabitants for their work; and other workmen much in the same manner. Weavers in general work by the hundred, and take the same prices as others of the same trade in Scotland.—The fuel here is peat altogether, brought from the distance of 6 miles; and every man procures his own, except the minister and the schoolmaster; as also cottagers and handicraftsmen, to whom the tenants lead most cheerfully. At an average,

page,

Antiquities.—There are several standing stones or obelisks in this parish; one of which stands by itself, and gives name to a very good piece of land, which is now called Stanefgarth, which is certainly of Norwegian extraction, being the girth or garth which was first erected round the stone, now in good arable land. Next is Stanerandy, without the walls of the barony, which is two stones upon a tumulus, that has been dug into, by whom I know not: it seems to be the only name-stone that ever I heard of, and perhaps may be called Randolph's Stone, after the warrior that might have been buried there. There are three others, but very small, among a parcel of very large tumuli, none of which have been touched; which, however, marks the scenes of other years, of which we have no tradition. Remains of Popish chapels are many, because every Eryland of 18 penny land had one for matins and vespers, but now all are in ruins †.

S f 2

Character,

rage, the expense of a common cottager may be computed, when he earns his own bread, with a family of 4 children, at 8l. Sterling a-year. With regard to husbandry servants, it just depends upon the high or low farms; some giving 3l. to their men servants, and about a guinea to their women servants; which is not paid them all in money, but in commodities. As to domestic servants, there are none, except my own, in the parish.—From the number of horses above mentioned, it will be easy to judge what is the number of ploughs, because the greatest farmers have only three, drawn by three horses each. The ploughs of Orkney are peculiar to the county, like nothing except themselves; however, they something resemble the Egyptian plough, but the Egyptian plough is more simple. There are 6 carts in the parish.

† There are several names of Pictish castles, which even now give names to places, such as *Castragoe*, &c. As to camps, roads, and forts, there are none, unless we can call the borough of Birsay a camp of defence in times of distress. Towards the land side, where it is only accessible, we can to this moment mark the traces of the ancient wall that defended

Character, Occupation, &c. of the People.—The people in this parish are good, honest, manly, decent men. The general sizes of the people are thus : My clerk, the writer of this paper, is 6 feet 1 inch high ; we have many 6 feet high ; and, in general, they are very strong men, being hard wrought. We can hear of no particular tall men ; in general, the people of this parish are above the middle size : they are, in general, very industrious, and even laborious ; but at present we have no standing manufacture of any kind. The women spin a great deal of lint for so much a hank, or buy bags of lint, at about a guinea, which they work up into linen, by an 800 reed, which is sold at Newcastle, Edinburgh, and Shetland, at about 11d. the yard, besides many pieces of finer and coarser grists for themselves. The woollen manufacture is not much employed, except for mere convenience : there may be about 40 or 50 weavers, mostly employed in the linen branch, and a few are employed in the woollen for family use, and these are

defended it, together with a great number of foundations of small huts within the fortification ; which surely may be attributed to the inhabitants, to secure their best effects against invaders, but could not secure their cattle, horses, &c., because there is no grass. The era of this fortification, and others of the same kind, I leave it to be judged upon, as such places are quite frequent, both in Shetland, such as the Mule of Unst, and in the other end of the mainland of Orkney, called the Mule-head of Deerness, the Burgh of Murray, and, indeed, in all other places denominated Burghs, that is to say, insulated headlands projecting to the sea ; which, in these rude times, before the invention of gunpowder, might be deemed very sufficient for the safety of the inhabitants against incurse enemies. We may mention, by the by, that in the Burgh of Birsay there is a little chapel of modern workmanship, of which only one window, and part of the wall, remains, said to be dedicated to St. Peter, to which the superstitious resorted ; but St. Peter and his chapel are now much neglected.

are mostly old men, or those in the very outskirts of the parish.

Most of the people of the barony and Marwick are bred fishermen; and multitudes of our young men go to sea, both in merchant and in his Majesty's service; few in proportion of whom ever return to settle here. In this parish, 18 fishing boats run from 4 different summer stations, besides 2 small ones used occasionally. These boats are from 16 to 17½ feet of keel; and, with their whole tackle, may cost 10*l.* at an average. We have no large vessels, nor any proper harbours. It is very difficult to ascertain what number have entered into any of his Majesty's ships during any preceding war; the parish generally give a bounty of 2 guineas each to 3 men, when required; but doubtless many entered or have been impressed, that have not come to our knowledge. No person has enlisted as a soldier from this parish during this century.

As to their economy, they cannot spend much; but there is a great odds within these 20 years, both in apparel and living. When I came first to the parish, there was not a piece of English cloth to be seen on a man's back; no figured waistcoats or velvet breeches; their stockings made of their own wool, their shoes of their own leather, tied with good strong sufficient points: Now the case differs; the young fellows, instead of bonnets, almost all wear hats; upon Sunday, a suit of decent S. country clothes, with cotton waistcoats, and corduroy breeches; some few wear cotton or thread stockings; shoes much the same as formerly; buckles universal. The living, in general, among the lower people and servants, is much better, owing to the rise of prices of what they can dispose of, and perhaps by making a more liberal use of what

what the parish produces. There is not much tea nor sugar expended here. The women, on Sundays or holidays, come out neatly dressed in calicoes, calimancoes, or neat stuffs, with grey or brown cloaks, scarlet cloaks, and a great number of beautiful scarlet plaids; their linen fine, clean, and neat. The reason of the superior finery of late among the young people, may be attributed to the following particulars: 1st, They have a good part of their own earning to themselves; 2dly, New methods of earning are daily occurring, and the price of their annual labour produces much more than it did 20 years ago. The old men and women are just in the style of their forefathers. As they are sprung from the Norwegians, they still continue to wear good strong black clothes without dying, called by the ancient Norse, *Vadmell*, and by them wrought in a loom called *Upstagan*; but now wrought in the common manner.

Property in this parish is just as in other parishes, now and then shifting from hand to hand; and when land is sold, especially in small parcels, it fetches very high prices; in general, at 40 or 50 years purchase, sometimes a great deal more, and seldom less*.

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* The people in this parish are very humane, generally, by helping their poorer neighbours, both at the miller's eye, and at their own houses; so that our poor, whether old or past work, or young orphans, not come to it, are not a very great burthen upon us. Very few ships are wrecked upon this coast, because it is dangerous; but one instance we may mention, of real humanity, was in the case of a sloop belonging to Leith, which had one man imprisoned, the master knocked overboard, and none but two apprentice boys left to govern it, who were far from being able to hoist the mainfall. The sloop, thus left in distress, was noticed by our Birse boats, who immediately went aboard of her, and part of the crew of one of them carried her into Stromness, where they anchored her safely; and the vessel being claimed, our lads had but a most trifling reward for their trouble, only about a guinea, though the Stromness pilots would have taken much more for taking her in through Hoy Sound, and perhaps claimed salvage also.

The people are social among themselves, and seem contented; and their circumstances may be guessed from the punctuality of paying their rents, which, except in a very few instances, they do as exactly, or perhaps more so, than any parish in the mainland.

Hints for Improvement, and Miscellaneous Observations.—The only method I can see how their circumstances can be meliorated is, by a change of climate, introducing a new method of agriculture, granting leases for a reasonable time, so that a man could have some hopes of enjoying the fruit of his own labours. But these, and many other improvements that may be suggested, will, I dare say, never be obtained while this generation endures on the face of the earth. There is only one bridge worth notice, consisting of 2 small arches, and is in great disrepair; we have no made roads, nor any turnpikes. There is such a payment as road and rogue money; but how taken up, or how applied, I am not well informed. As the parish was never properly measured, they value their land in planks of 40 fathom square; so that the rent cannot be well ascertained, but it is in general very low. Little pasture ground is let out here for hire, but every man has a small proportion according as he labours: all hill pasture is in common. We have one farm, which, together with the mill and the links, pays to Sir Thomas Dundas a rent of 30*l.* Sterling yearly; another pays 30 meils malt; and some others pay a great deal less. The number of farms is rather diminishing, but this only in a few instances, and by slow degrees. Several people, and their predecessors, have lived upon the same spot for upwards of this century. Every farm-stead in the parish is enclosed with an

out fence of earth, but not divided. The people have it not in their power to judge whether it would be of any advantage to them or not; though doubtless it might, as may be seen by some small trials that have been made *.

PARISH

* There is little alteration in this parish since 1782 or 1783, except the difference of crops, which, for some years, have been very bad, particularly from 1782 to 1788, others middling till 1792, which was most excellent, and also 1793, which is a good saving crop, only suffered a little by the rains in harvest, which rendered it late in ingathering. In 1783, we received meal from government gratis, which was distributed without distinction to those who really had necessity for it, whether farmers or artizans, or others. In 1784, they received a new supply, but that was paid for at a moderate price. The other bad years above mentioned, could not supply themselves; but a great deal of meal and potatoes was imported by merchants, who made the best profits they could, no doubt. There are neither cities nor villages in this parish, and only one ancient ruinous building, which was the palace of the Earls of Orkney, though built at different times, and by different men, namely, the Sinclairs, commonly stiled princes and counts of Orkney. Robert Stuart, natural brother to Queen Mary, as also his son Patrick, made great additions; it is now much in ruins, but has been built upon the model of Holyroodhouse, being a square area built upon the four sides, with a well in the middle; but for the largeness of the building, it has had little conveniency according to the taste of the times. Above the gate was the famous inscription, which, among other points of ditty, cost Earl Patrick his head. It runs as follows: *Dominus Robertus Stuartus filius Jacobi quinti Rex Scotorum, hoc opus infiruxit*; and above his coat of arms was the following motto: *Sic fuit, est, et erit*. The stone, as far as I know, is now in the possession of the Earl of Morton, to whom the lands were sold, and by him sold to Sir Lawrence Dundas, in whose son's possession the greatest estate of the parish does still continue. As to the schools in this parish, we have a legal parochial school paid by the heritors at 900 merks Scotch, besides some perquisites, which are generally paid in kind. The schoolmaster has likewise the session clerkship, which yields 20 l. Scotch.

Two charity schools have been established in this parish, by a mortification left by Nicol Spence, late church agent, which is the rent of his houses in Edinburgh, lying in Warriston's close; as likewise one in Harray, which shall be mentioned in its proper place.

There are no settled inns in this parish, but plenty of ale houses, as there are no gaugers. As to the morality of the people, it may be just as well hurt by Orkney ale as burning whisky.

PARISH OF HARRAY.

Name, Soil, Air, &c.—The parish of Harray is under the same ministry as Birsay, and is joined with Birsay at N. W.; towards the W. it touches Sandwick; W., S. W., and S. it is bounded by a large brackish loch, commonly called the Loch of Harray; and on the other quarters, by Stennes, a small part of Firth, and the hills that part it from Randal. What the origin of the name is, I know not, nor ever read of it in ancient history. It is a very irregular parish; and, between arable and uncultivated ground, may contain 21 square miles, being about 6 miles long; and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles broad. In general, Harray is flat and rather swampy, intersected by a great number of very dangerous burns, which, at most seasons, rush down in perfect torrents from the adjacent hills, and often occasion danger and even death to unwary travellers. The soil varies very much; in some places tolerably fertile, and in others very barren; the nature of it is generally very spongy, or else very hard and channelly, with but a very small stratum of earth. By the nature of the earth, the air must be moist, and often produces most severe colds, dropries, scrofulas, and other cutaneous distempers, which may be owing to a watery diet; such as cabbage, &c. There is one large loch, which produces a great quantity of most excellent fish of the trout kind, and a lesser one, which supplies their mill. The fish in this parish are never sent to market, and are in best perfection in the summer time, especially from May till September.—The hills are about the same height as those in Birsay. The meadows are often subject to inunda-

tions about Lammas, which sweep away the hay, or otherwise destroy it, by rendering the meadows a perfect gutter, so that they cannot be cut; and this is often the case, as it will happen in a night's time, owing to the hill speats. There are several instances of thunder having done mischief in Harray; one in particular within the memory of man, which caused a water spout, that, by removing the earth, left a great gulph many yards broad, down to the rock, and near a quarter of a mile long. The parish breeds a number of small cattle, but none of any peculiar size; even what they have are very ill kept, being fed through the whole summer upon hill pasture, and that of the very worst kind, except in two or three instances.

Population.—The population of the parish of Harray is much nearer upon a par, for this dozen of years back, than the parish of Birsay, owing to the people of Harray not having the same spirit of enterprise; they are entirely unacquainted with the sea, and though a few of them may have learnt to build boats, or go to Hudson's Bay, or perhaps work as masons in the neighbourhood, yet few of these are lost to the parish, they being generally employed near at hand, and passing their spare time with their friends. Few or none go to sea from Harray, and only two have gone for soldiers that I know of in my time, both of whom have since returned. Fevers are sometimes very destructive, and the small pox often fatal. The young men of Harray are pretty fond of quarrelling over their ale; but I have never heard of any murders. Many accidents happen upon the lochs, by people falling through the ice, and dying by cold. None have been banished; one fellow fled for
incest,

incest, and has not appeared again; and another fled for petty thefts.

Productions.—The productions of the parish are common bear and small oats, which, in some years, do not supply themselves; but in very good years they may spare a small quantity. The nearest average that can be made, without an exact list, may be, of horses 172, or rather more; cattle 258, or rather more: they have a few sheep in Harray, but not so many as their bounds might contain; some of these are very fine woolled, but that has been of late years very much hurt, by introducing a mongrel breed of English rams, which not only render their wool rough and hairy, but brought the scab among them, which killed them by scores; many likewise perish in the snow. They sow and reap their crops nearly as in Birsay. There is marl in plenty, of a very good quality, and much used.

Miscellaneous Observations.—All the advantage the parish has, is being pretty near to the fuel, which is very good of its kind, and nearest to coal of any peats that ever I saw; burns with a clear steady flame, and when charred, will work iron very well. Its disadvantages are, a want of sea fish, of which they can procure but few. The ancient Norse language long prevailed in Harray, more so than in any part of the country, but is now worn out: the names of places are all undoubtedly Norwegian, *Heuon a Lidna*, a knoll to lie upon; *Rusland-Burghs*, compounded words which end in burghs or garths, which signify an enclosure of greater or lesser extent; with many others similar to those mentioned in Birsay parish. The land rent of this

parish cannot be well ascertained, as it is parted among near an hundred small heritors, many of whom labour their own small portions ; but the valued rent is 1696l. 3s. 11d. Scots. The glebe in Harray may be worth about 45l. Scots. The church of Harray got a thorough repair in the year 1778, but has never been touched since ; so that if not attended to, I suppose, it will soon be where it was. We have a number of poor, but no funds ; scarce being able to pay our clerk and officers.

The number of ploughs in the parish is about 57, together with 20 carts, drawn by one ox each : One standing stone, without any tradition concerning it : Many Pictish castles, all in ruins ; they seem to have served for watch towers and fortalices in ancient times, but they could have saved nothing but lives and household goods ; they could not have preserved cattle, as their dimensions were too small. The people in general in this parish are about the middle size, few above it. Property is shifting sometimes from hand to hand, but mostly in trifling bits.

The people are as well contented as poor people can be expected ; can put a new suit of clothes upon their backs now and then, partly of their own making, and partly bought ; and can make a feast, at a wedding or a christening, on their own provisions, with a drink of their own ale.—The enclosures are much the same as in Birsay.—The poverty of Harray was very great in some late bad years ; inasmuch that I divided 8 bolls of meal into 96 parts, and every person that applied got according to their need ; they, in these years, certainly lived very miserably, mostly upon milk and cabbage, but none died.—In this parish, there is 1 school, at present vacant, partly maintained by a mortification given

by Nicol Spence, some time church agent, and partly by a small gratuity given by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge ; the salary is 10*l.* with small perquisites ; and the number of scholars, mostly attending in winter, are about 40. We have no inns in Harray. There is a good deal of malt brewed in different houses, where sometimes a battle will happen, which often brings forth a petty law-suit of little consequence. No cottagers are employed except in harvest, and but few hired servants, most of the labour being done by the children of the house, except in cases of minority.

The number of souls at present is 663, as may be seen by the following abstract :

Married men, widowers, and young men			
above 7 years,	-	-	253
Married women, widows, and young women			
above 7 years,	-	-	296
Boys below 7 years of age,	-	-	49
Girls ditto,	-	-	65
Total,			663

As to artificans, there are, 1 smith, a few tailors, a few shoemakers, and a few weavers employed in woollen stuffs for their own use.

NUMBER

NUMBER XX.

UNITED PARISHES OF CRATHY
AND BRAEMAR.(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF
• KINCARDINE O'NEIL.)*By the Rev. Mr. CHARLES M'HARDY.**Name, Situation, &c.*

CRATHY is of Gaelic derivation, probably from *Cruaidh-achadh*, "hard or stony fields," as the parish, in general, is rocky, and full of stones; or from *Craoibh-achadh*, "fields or ridges, intersected with wood." The ancient name of Braemar was *Ceann-androcbait*, which, in Gaelic, signifies "bridgend." There is no certainty at what period they were united. They are situated in that district of the county called Marr, in the very middle of the Grampian hills. They are distant from Aberdeen about 50 English miles. The length of both parishes from E. to W. is about 40 miles, and about 20 in breadth; the inhabited part of which is about 30 miles long, and from 6 to 10 in breadth. The parish

parish of Braemar is supposed to be more elevated above the level of the sea, and farther removed in every direction from the coast, than any other parish in Scotland.

Climate, Soil, Produce, &c.—The climate is healthy, and many of the inhabitants live to a good old age. The principal distempers are fevers, gravel, rheumatism, and choleric. When a malignant kind of the small pox prevails, it carries away a number of children; yet the body of the people are not reconciled to inoculation. The soil is various; in some parts a light loam, in others a thin clay; but, in general, shallow and sandy; yet, when properly cultivated, produces, in a favourable season, good crops. The ordinary crops raised by the country people, are, oats, bear and potatoes. Turnips and clover, with rye grass, are cultivated by a few gentlemen. There was very little lintseed, till of late, sown in these parishes, although it was found to answer exceedingly well, for this reason, that there was no lint-mill in the county; but that grievance is now, in a great measure, removed, as Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld has built a lint-mill at Castletown of Braemar. The consequence is, that the people, in general, sow more lintseed; and from the advantages they derive from this branch of farming, it is probable that, in a few years hence, another lint-mill, at least, will be necessary in this part of the country*.

Mountains

* As there is no map of the parishes, it is impossible to say what number of acres are in tillage. Oats are sown in April, or sooner, if the season permits, then lintseed, and potatoes, and bear from the beginning to the middle of May. The time of harvest is extremely variable; beginning sometimes about the 15th of August, and sometimes not till the 1st or 5th of September.

Mountains and Minerals—The greater part of the two parishes is mountainous. Some of the mountains are probably the highest in Scotland: Of this description are the mountains of Loch-na-garaidh, on the S. side of the parish; Binn-na-baird on the N.; and Binn-na-muick-duidh on the W., &c. Upon these mountains, and others connected with them, there is snow to be found all the year round; and their appearance is extremely romantic, and truly alpine. On them are found pellucid stones, of the nature of precious stones, equally transparent, beautiful in their colour; and some of them, particularly the emerald, as hard as any oriental gem of the same kind. The most common are, the brown, of different shades, and next the topaz. There are also beautiful amethysts and emeralds, though these are rare to be met with, particularly the latter; and what is remarkable, amethysts only are to be found on Loch-na-garaidh; emeralds, topazes, and the brown on Binn-na-baird; topazes and the brown kinds only on Binn-na-muick-duidh, and the other mountains in these parishes. The first of these stones that attracted notice, and were cut by a lapidary, were found on Cairn-gorm, in Strathspey, but connected with the above ridge of mountains, which gave rise, though very improperly, to the general name of Cairn-gorm stones. Both the parishes abound with granite of different kinds, and various shades, which is used for building. It is very hard in its nature, and when polished, looks as well as marble. There is limestone in great profusion. On Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld's property, in the parish of Braemar, is a little quarry, from which are brought almost all the slates made use of in this country.

Forests.

Forests, Woods, &c.—The greater part of the united parishes of Crathy and Braemar, have been originally King's forest, and known by the name of the Forest of Marr. This forest, with those of the Duke of Atholl, and Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld in Perthshire, and the Duke of Gordon in Badenoch and Glenaven, constituted the principal part of the great northern Caledonian forest. In the deepest mosses or morasses, within the immense range of extensive forests above mentioned, there are to be found large logs, or roots of wood (even where there is not a tree now to be seen standing), which affords the most incontrovertible evidence, that they have formerly been over-run with timber,

The only part of the forest of Marr, which is now used as kept forest, is in Braemar. The Earl of Fife and Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld, have, each of them, extensive forests, which are well stocked with red and roe deer. From the great care and attention which has been paid to these animals for some years past, they are now so numerous and domesticated, that they are to be seen in numbers from the windows of the houses of Invercauld and Marr-Lodge. At the latter place, about the beginning of May, 100 stags have been seen at once feeding on the lawn. The soil of this country, in general, is favourable to the growth of forest trees. Besides birch, a kind of poplar, known by the name of quaking ash, the alder, the roan tree, or mountain ash, a species of the willow, &c. &c. There are, in these parishes, extensive natural fir woods, belonging to the Earl of Fife, Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld, Mr. Gordon of Abergeldie, and Mr. Farquharson of Inverey; as also, large plantations of Scotch firs, and other trees. Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld alone has planted above 14

millions of the former, and upwards of a million of larch, with a great variety of others. Mr. Gordon of Abergeldie has planted Scotch firs to a very considerable extent, besides other trees; and the Earl of Fife has also made plantations of Scotch firs, and other kinds.

Rivers, Lakes, &c.—The Dee is the principal river. It has its source on a hill called Gaibh-chor-Dhe, in Lord Fife's forest; and running through the united parishes of Braemar and Crathy, and a great many other parishes, with vast rapidity, empties itself into the German ocean at Aberdeen, at the distance of about 90 miles, in a straight line from its source. If the windings of the river were measured, it would be little short of 50 more. It produces salmon and trout in great plenty, with some pike and eel. Several small rivers and rivulets fall into the Dee before it reaches Crathy, particularly the Geallaidh, the Luidh, the Eidh, the Coich, the Cluanaidh, &c., which are all well stored with excellent trout: the Cluanaidh produces salmon. In the parish of Braemar, there are many lins or cascades, particularly those of Coich, the Mulzie, the Garrabh-alt, &c.; but the lin that deserves most notice, is that of the Dee, not so much on account of the height of the fall, as the singularity of the rivers being confined for upwards of 60 yards between two rocks, within so narrow a space, that some persons have been fool hardy enough to step from the one rock to the other. The principal lakes in the parishes, are Loch Callader and Loch Bhrotachan, both on Mr. Farquharson's property, and well stored with excellent trout. Loch Callader produces fine little salmon, of about 7 or 8 lbs. weight, and

some eel. It will be above 2 miles in circumference. Loch Bhrotachun is smaller, but produces large delicate red trout.

Animals.—The quadrupeds are horses, cows, sheep, swine, red and roe deer in abundance; foxes, martins, pole cats, wild cats, white and brown hares, badgers, otters, &c. The fowls are, eagles, hawks of different kinds, kites, black cock, growse, or moorfowl, and tarmagan; besides every other species common in the Highlands of Scotland. There are in the parish of Crathy, 529 horses, 919 black cattle, 5591 sheep. In the parish of Braemar, 466 horses, 930^a black cattle, and 9000 sheep. In both parishes, 995 horses, 1846 black cattle, and 14,591 sheep*. Besides the above, there are about 800 or 900 black cattle grazed in the summer season, and about 2000 of the above number of sheep sent to other places to be pastured through the winter.

Population.—The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was 2671 souls. In the parish of Crathy, there are 700 Protestants, 150 Papists, and 164 children under 7 years of age. Total 1024 souls. In the parish of Braemar, there are 455 Protestants, 580 Papists, and 192 children. Total 1227. In both parishes, 2251 souls. The annual number of births, marriages, and burials, as taken from the parish register for the last 4 years†, is as under: viz.

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From

* It is to be observed, that the above falls short of the real numbers, as the people would not give up an exact account, lest government might have it in contemplation to tax them.

† There was no regular register of baptisms, &c., kept previous to that period.

	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
From the 1st of October 1789			
to the 1st October 1790,	52	13	35
From the 1st October 1790			
to the 1st October 1791,	46	16	37
From the 1st October 1791			
to the 1st October 1792,	54	24	42
From the 1st October 1792			
to the 1st October 1793,	39	14	55
Total 191	59	169	

State of Property.—The proprietors of these 2 parishes, of whom Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld is the principal, are 8, viz. The Earl of Fife, James Farquharson, Esq. of Invercauld, William Farquharson, Esq. of Monaltry, James Farquharson, Esq. of Balmeral, Charles Gordon, Esq. of Abergeldie, William M'Donald, Esq. of Rincaton, the Reverend Thomas Gordon of Crathynaird, and John Erskine portioner of Achallader. One heritor resides constantly, 3 occasionally; and there are 4 who do not reside at all. The valued rent of both parishes, is 3347l. 16s. 8d. Scotch. The real rent 1826l. Sterling.

Price of Labour and Provisions.—The general wages of day labourers of every description, are double what they were 20 or 30 years ago. The wages of male servants, about 30 years ago, were from 1l. 15s. to 2l. a-year; at present they are from 4l. to 6l. a-year; maid servants, at the above period, had from 1l. to 1l. 10s. a-year. Now they get from 2l. to 3l. About 30 years ago, a fat cow, which at present costs from 5l. to 6l., could have been purchased at 2l. 2s., or 2l. 10s.; a fat wedder that sells

now

now for 12s. or 14s., could have been bought then for 5s. or 6s., and other butcher meat in proportion. Poultry, &c. now sell as under, viz. a live goose from 2s. to 2s. 6d.; ducks from 8d. to 10d., hens 6d., chickens 3d. each, eggs 1½d. the dozen, milk 2d. the Scotch pint, butter 9d. the lb. of 28 ounces, and cheese from 4s. to 6s. the stone of 28 English lbs *. Barley sells from 15s. to 20s., oats from 12s. to 16s. 8d. the boll; potatoes from 4d. to 8d. the peck, and wool from 9s. to 20s. the stone, of 30 lbs. English. The fuel commonly made use of is peat, turf, heath, and sometimes fir and birch.

Manufactures.—The only branch of manufacture in this country, is the spinning of linen yarn. Lint is imported from Aberdeen at the expense of the manufacturing company, and left with the shopkeepers in the united parishes; and they are allowed a certain profit for the trouble of giving out the lint, and taking in the yarn. The common price paid for the spinning, is from 10d. to 1s. 3d. the spindle. This brings a considerable sum of money into the country; by which the greater part of the poorer families are supported, and enabled to
pay

* Though there are many black cattle in the two parishes, yet it cannot be said that much attention has been paid to the breed in the rearing of them; nor is there any thing that deserves the name of a regular dairy, excepting that at Invercauld. Lady Sinclair, in the year 1755, established a dairy under proper regulations, which was attended with the greatest success. The butter and cheese made in this dairy, were of the best quality, and now so well known, that they need no particular description. This was owing, in a great measure, to good old pasture; but principally to the attention paid to the breed, in keeping those cows only that had very rich milk, and disposing of such as had their milk white and thin, of a poor quality, which happened often then, though rarely now, but which has made this breed of cattle, though but of a middling size, very valuable to those who wish to have a good dairy.

pay the rents of their houses, and small crofts of land. The women, in general, spin with both hands *.

Exports

* It might, with great propriety, be thought an unpardonable omission, were I to close this head without doing justice to the memory of the deceased Lady Sinclair, first wife to Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld.

That amiable woman, who never lost sight of what tended to promote the interest of the poor, finding that the women of the two parishes were entire strangers to the art of spinning on the little wheel, applied to the Board of Trustees, &c. about the year 1755, for some aid to encourage this branch of manufacture. The trustees having readily granted her request, she procured a proper spinning mistress, and erected a spinning school at the castletown of Braemar. After the school was opened, it was found so difficult to get scholars to attend it, that Mr. Farquharson himself was obliged to speak to his tenants, and, in a manner, compel those who had 2 or 3 daughters, to send 1 of them to the school. Having, however, surmounted every difficulty, the school was fairly set agoing; and from the attention Lady Sinclair paid to it, going in person to visit it, and giving premiums to those who excelled, she raised such a spirit of emulation, that in about 7 years time, the progress was astonishing. From printed advertisements circulated through the parishes, in the month of August 1762, offering certain premiums to those who produced the greatest and best quantities of linen yarn, of their own spinning, against the 31st of December following *, there were no fewer than 129 unmarried women, and little girls, who received premiums on the 1st of January 1763. The quantity of linen yarn brought at this time to Invercauld for inspection, and which was examined by Lady Sinclair, and some other ladies who attended to assist her, was supposed to be worth at least 300l. Sterling. Previous to this institution, lint was spun on the rock or distaff only; and wool on the big wheel.

* The following is a copy of the advertisement.

" Invercauld, August 1762.

" Lady Sinclair hereby advertises, that the trustees for the manufactures having put into her hands a sum of money to be distributed in the way she thinks most proper, for promoting spinning in the united parishes of Braemar and Crathy, her Ladyship now publishes, that she is to distribute premiums of gowns, plaids, caps, silk napkins, lawn napkins, lawn aprons, and such like goods, among the women and girls, who shall produce to her at Invercauld, upon the 31st day of January next, the greatest and best quantities of linen yarn of their own spinning. The yarn must be lodged at Invercauld on Friday the 31st of December next, and the premiums will be distributed the day after.

Exports and Imports.—The exports are wood, black cattle, sheep, butter, cheese, wool, woollen cloth, &c. The imports are oatmeal, salt, iron, linen, flax, leather, lawns, mullins, &c.

Language.—The language generally spoken is the Gaelic. Most of the people, however, understand so much of the English, as to be able to transact ordinary business with their neighbours of the Low Country. It was once thought an object of political attention to use means for eradicating this ancient language from the Highlands of Scotland. It is to be presumed, that the Legislature now entertains very different views. For experience has fully evinced, that there are no better foldiers in the day of battle than the Highlanders, and that honour, humanity, decency, and good order are not incompatible with the use of the Gaelic, and of tartan plaids and philabegs. All names of places in the country, whose etymology can be traced with certainty, are Gaelic.

Ecclesiastical State.—The present stipend is 800 merks, with 20l. Scots for furnishing communion elements. The present incumbent, who was settled in June 1789, has raised a process of augmentation against the heritors: What the issue may be, is as yet uncertain. The glebe measures nearly 7 acres, but the greatest part of it, till last year, was uncultivated. The present incumbent, with his own servants and cattle, has brought some acres to tillage, and has contracted with an undertaker to have the remaining acres trenched before the end of April next. The expense will be upwards of 6l. Sterling the acre, including blowing and carrying away the stones;

stones; but will turn out to be a piece of excellent ground when brought into culture. The manse, which was built in the years 1790 and 1791, at above 400*l*. Sterling of expense to the heritors, is an exceeding good house, with all the accommodation necessary for a clergyman, and executed in a neat and substantial manner. The King is patron.

There are 2 churches, one in Braemar, and one at Crathy. The church of Braemar is a very neat, decent church, with a most excellent church-yard wall round it, built with stone and lime. It is supported almost at the sole expense of the Earl of Fife and Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld. The church of Crathy, though kept in repair at the joint expense of all the heritors of the 2 parishes, the Earl of Fife excepted, is in very bad order, and too small. The church-yard wall is in the same situation *.

There are 2 Roman Catholick priests who reside constantly in Braemar, besides 1 who comes occasionally to the parish of Crathy.

Schools, Poor, &c.—There are 2 schools, viz. the parochial school, situated near the church of Crathy, with a salary of 100 merks, besides session-clerk fees, and other quarterly payments; and one of the Society's schools in Braemar, with a salary of 14*l*. Sterling, and
other

* There is a missionary minister, paid by the Royal Bounty, stationed in Braemar; but as he has not the Gaelic language, and as there are some persons who do not understand any English, the parish minister is obliged to exchange pulpits with him very frequently. The General Assembly of the church of Scotland have now pledged themselves, that how soon the present missionary is otherwise provided for, they shall appoint none for the future to that mission, but persons having the Gaelic language.

other perquisites.—The number of poor who receive supply is upwards of 70. The funds for their support are the weekly collections, the interest of 12*l.* at 5 per cent, and the rent of a gallery in the church of Crathy, amounting in whole to about 26*l.* Sterling. The late John Farquharson of Invercauld, and father of the present proprietor, mortified 5000 merks for the purpose of maintaining and educating some poor boys of the name of Farquharson at the charity schools.

Roads and Bridges.—The military road from Blairgowrie to Fort George goes through the parishes of Braemar and Crathy, which was completed in the year 1749, at the expense of government. Bridges were likewise built over all the rivers and rivulets upon this line of road, at the same expense. The county roads are made and kept in repair by the statute-labour. The service is indeed, for the most part, commuted, and every man, between 16 and 60 years of age, is obliged to pay at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* yearly. The proprietors employ a proper road grieve, with a party, to work on days-wages, till the sum arising annually by this commutation is expended; and it is found, from experience, that there is more road made by this mode, and to much better purpose, than when the people performed their statute-labour. I cannot pass over this article of improvement, in justice to the memory of the late Mr. Farquharson of Monally; without mentioning how much the public in general, and this county in particular, are indebted to his disinterested and public spirited exertions. That gentleman, with a laudable spirit of patriotism, was the first person who undertook made roads in Aberdeenshire, which he carried on, with exertion, and,

at a great expense, to a considerable extent, for several years before the 1745. Having, however, unfortunately engaged in the Rebellion, and being kept a prisoner for 18 years in England, the country was, during that period, deprived of his services. On obtaining his liberty, he immediately renewed his public spirited improvements, wherever he had any influence, but chiefly in the 5 parishes of Braemar, Crathy, Glenmuick, Tullich, and Glengarden (which, indeed, form a separate and distinct district of this county); and from that time till his death, which happened in the year 1790, he continued, with unremitting attention, and at a great expense, to forward the building of new, and the repairing of old bridges; the making of new, and repairing former roads; in which he was ably supported by Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld (whose abilities in directing and executing roads are very uncommon), and, in some degree, by all the gentlemen in the county: so that, upon the whole, it may with great propriety be asserted, that during the last 25 years, no part of the Highlands of Scotland, of the same extent, has gained more in roads and bridges by private subscription, than the 5 parishes above described.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The 2 parishes of Crathy and Braemar, in general, have many, perhaps more, advantages within themselves, than some of the neighbouring parishes; and the people, though not very industrious, are yet intelligent, humane, obliging, and much given to hospitality. But still much might be done to better their circumstances, were such branches of manufacture as the country is calculated for, established and carried on by persons of experience, ability, and spirit.

spirit. As the soil is very favourable to the growth of flax, and as there is a great deal of wool annually exported, it is to be presumed, that the manufacture of woollen and linen cloth would be attended with the greatest success. There are likewise some good situations for bleachfields.

There is one disadvantage which this county in general labours under, and that is, the want of moss roads. The mosses, for the most part, lie at the distance of 2 or 3 miles from the tenants, and over almost inaccessible hills; by which means they are obliged to carry home their fuel on horseback. This makes them keep a greater number of horses than their farms can well bear; consequently the horses are of a small size: but were proper roads to be made, the tenants in general would keep larger horses and fewer of them, and would provide wheel carriages. This is clearly evinced upon the estate of Monaltry. The present proprietor, merely to accommodate his tenants, in the years 1790 and 1791, carried on and finished a very complete road to an inexhaustible moss. It is carried over the summit of a high hill, yet so well directed, that the acclivity is scarcely felt: the expense, no doubt, was considerable; but the consequence is, that since that period most of the tenants have provided themselves with carts, and, in a few years hence, it is very probable, the whole tenants on the estate will do the same.

Another disadvantage, which prevails in some places of the country, is the personal services of the tenants. Wherever the tenants are expected to thrive, personal services should be dispensed with and commuted. That which has longest kept up, is the providing a certain quantity of fuel for the master, yearly, with some long

and short carriages. This interferes much with the labours of the husbandman, as his whole time is employed in providing his own and his master's fuel, from the time the seed is sown till the beginning of harvest. Thus he loses all that time in which he ought to provide manure for his land; and though there is limestone in great profusion near, or perhaps upon, his farm, yet he can derive no benefit from it. Several of the proprietors, however, have commuted their services. Were this mode generally adopted, and the tenants encouraged to build decent houses, it would conduce much to the comfort of the farmer, and the interest of the landlord.

There is a third disadvantage, and which is exceedingly pernicious, not only to this county, but almost to the whole North of Scotland; and that is, the depredation made on the sheep, game, and poultry by foxes and other vermin. There was a scheme planned some years ago by Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld, and carried into execution by him and the other heritors, for the preservation of sheep, game, and poultry, and for the destruction of foxes, wild-cats, pole-cats, eagles, hawks, &c., from which the parishes of Braemar, Crathy, Glenmuick, Tullich, and Glengarder, derived more real benefits, than perhaps from any other improvements that could be introduced into this county. It commenced the 15th of January 1776; and before that period, the destruction of sheep was so great, that it is thought the value of the sheep annually killed by vermin, in the above parishes, was nearly equal to half the rent paid to the proprietors. The scheme was this: The heritors entered into a private subscription among themselves, out of which a premium was paid for every animal or
bird

bird that was brought in to the cashiers, by such persons as were authorised by the association to carry arms for the destruction of foxes, &c. ; and who had been previously sworn not to kill game : and, it is believed, that out of more than 100 persons, who had warrants for this purpose, not one of them ever trespassed in that respect. The whole subscriptions in the 5 parishes amounted to about 40 guineas a-year ; and the scheme continued for 10 years, with so great success, that during that period there were killed 634 foxes, 44 wild-cats, 57 pole-cats ; 70 eagles, 2520 hawks and kites ; 1347 ravens and hooded crows * ; besides all those which were destroyed by poison, or died of their wounds : and sheep were then in perfect safety to pasture at all times and seasons to the very boundary of where the scheme extended. Unfortunately, however, for this county, some of the heritors (for reasons best known to themselves) withdrew their subscriptions. The other subscribers were obliged, 8 years ago, to give up the scheme ; the consequence of which is, that the destruction of sheep has gradually gained ground, and game of all kinds decreased in the same proportion. It is much to be regretted that the scheme was dropped ; but the experiment has sufficiently evinced the following fact, viz. that if such an extensive track of mountainous country as the 5 parishes above described, where there is a great deal of wood, and where foxes and other vermin poured in from neighbouring countries as mountainous as this, derived such real advantages from

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* For the first year, the premiums extended only to foxes, eagles, goshawks, and falcons ; the second year, wild-cats, pole-cats, small hawks, and kites, were added ; and the third year, ravens and hooded crows were also included.

a scheme carried into execution on such a contracted scale as 40 guineas a-year; still greater advantages must be derived from a scheme of this kind, if it was extended over the whole Highlands of Scotland.

A fourth disadvantage is, the distance from a port town, which is 50 miles in any direction *.

Antiquities.—There is, upon the estate of Castletown of Braemar, the ruins of an ancient castle, built, as tradition reports, by King Malcolm Kenmore for a hunting seat. By the vestiges which still remain, it is obvious, that there was a very considerable building. The house stood on the top of a rock on the E. side of the water of Cluanadh; and the King having thrown a drawbridge across the river, to the rock on the opposite side, the parish of Braemar derived its original name of *Ceann-an-drochart* from that circumstance. On a little mount on the Haugh of Castletown stands the castle of Braemar. It was originally the property of Farquharson of Invercauld, and given to a second son of that family as his patrimony. About the end of Queen Mary's reign, these lands were exchanged with the Earl of Marr for the lands of Monaltry, and, soon after his accession to the estate, he built the present house. King William, after the Revolution, took possession of it for a garrison, and

* I see with pleasure a branch of the post-office extended lately from Aberdeen to Kincardine O'Neil; but this country can derive little or no benefit from it, being still 31 miles distant from the Castletown of Braemar. Was the extension of this branch to be carried to that place, this whole country, instead of sending a man weekly to Cupar Angus for letters and newspapers, would put all their letters into this office to go round by Aberdeen, which would bring an additional revenue of 3d. at least, for every single letter, and would, it is presumed, more than indemnify government for the expenses incurred in the establishment of it.

and put some troops into it to keep the country in awe; but this had not the desired effect, for the country being of opposite sentiments at the time, besieged the garrison, and obliged the troops to retire, under silence of night, in order to save their lives; and to save themselves from such troublesome neighbours for the future, they burnt the castle. In this state, it continued till the year 1715, when the whole Marr estates were forfeited. About the 1720, Lords Dun and Grange purchased from government all the lands belonging to the Erskine family; and about the 1730, John Farquharson of Invercauld, bought the lands of Castletown from Lords Dun and Grange. About the 1748, Mr. Farquharson gave a lease to government of the castle, and an enclosure of 14 acres of ground, for the space of 99 years, at 14l. Sterling of yearly rent; upon which the house was repaired (the walls being then sufficient), and a rampart built round it, and it has, since that period, been occupied by a party of soldiers. At the expiration of the lease, or the evacuation of the troops, the house, with the enclosure, returns to Invercauld's family, without any melioration whatever.

On the lands of Monaltry, and on the N. bank of the river Dee, in a narrow pass, where there is not above 60 yards from the river to the foot of a high, steep, rocky hill, stands a cairn, known by the name of Carn-na-cuimhne, or Cairn of remembrance. The military road is carried along the foot of this hill, and through this pass. The tradition of the country is, that, at some period, the country being in danger, the Highland chieftains raised their men, and marching through this pass, caused each man lay down a stone in this place. When they returned, the stones were numbered; by which means
it

it was known how many men were brought into the field, and what number was lost in action. Since that period, Carn-na-cuimhne has been the watch-word of the country. At that period, every person capable of bearing arms, was obliged to have his arms, a bag, with some bannocks in it, and a pair of new mended shoes always in readiness; and the moment the alarm was given that danger was apprehended, a stake of wood, the one end dipped in blood (the blood of any animal), and the other burnt, as an emblem of fire and sword, was put into the hands of the person nearest to where the alarm was given, who immediately ran with all speed, and gave it to his nearest neighbour, whether man or woman; that person ran to the next village or cottage (for measures had been previously so concerted, that every one knew his route), and so on, till they went through the whole country; upon which every man instantly laid hold of his arms, &c., and repaired to Carn-na-cuimhne, where they met their leaders also in arms, and ready to give the necessary orders: The stake of wood was named Croishtarich. At this day, was a fray or squabble to happen at a market, or any public meeting, such influence has this word over the minds of the country people, that the very mention of Carn-na-cuimhne would, in a moment, collect all the people in this country, who happened to be at said meeting, to the assistance of the person assailed.

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF MID-CALDER.

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND
TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES WILSON.

Name and General Description.

IN various parts of Scotland, we meet with places which are named Calder. The word is probably of Gaelic derivation, and the meaning of it is said to be "wood and water." Considering the word in this sense, the town, from which this parish derives its name, may, with great propriety, be denominated Calder. The Almond, a river of considerable size, flows a little to the N. of it; and 2 small rivers to the E. unite their streams a few hundred yards before they are mingled with that of the Almond. Calder wood, which has one of the above mentioned small rivers on each side of it, is still of considerable extent; but from the following verses, which

I have heard repeated, it seems to have been formerly 6 or 7 miles in length.

Calder wood was fair to see,
When it went to Cameltree ;
Calder wood was fairer still,
When it went to Groswood hill.

The town of Mid-Calder is pleasantly situated, and many of the scenes and prospects, which the wood presents, are romantick, grand, and delightful. The wood consists chiefly of oaks, birches, Scotch firs, and larches: The parish is upon the whole, much adorned with stripes of plantation ; and it receives no small advantage from the shelter, which the trees afford. The greater part of the parish is enclosed, and divided into fields of a moderate extent, by stone walls, or by hedge and ditch.

Agriculture.—The old Scotch plough, which is very heavy, and drawn by 4 horses, and often by 4 horses and 2 oxen, is now, in general, laid aside, and a light one made use of, which is drawn by 2 horses only, and, in some instances, by 2 oxen, without any horse whatsoever.

The Scotch plough requires 2 persons to attend it, but 1 is deemed sufficient for that which is drawn by 2 horses. Thus there is a saving to the farmer of labourers, horses, and food. The 2 horse plough is not fit for heavy soil ; but in that which is of a light quality, it is not reckoned to do a great deal less work, than that in which 4 horses are employed.

For improving the lands, summer fallowing is become a very common practice, together with sowing
fields

fields with the seeds of turnip, and other succulent plants. Our soil is generally light, and not considered as the most proper for pease, or wheat, though both of them, in some parts of the parish, thrive very well. Oats, barley, turnips, and potatoes, make, in general, good returns. The curling of potatoes, so much and justly complained of in England, is not prevalent in this country. Making allowance for the difference of soil, seasons, cultivation, and other circumstances, the several kinds of grain, which are sown in this parish, may be stated, upon the whole, as yielding the following increase: Wheat from 6 to 10, and sometimes 12 fold; pease from 4 to 8; barley from 5 to 7; and oats, 4, 7, or 8 fold: Potatoes, at an average, may be reckoned at 30 fold, though, in many places, the increase is much less. An acre of turnips is worth 5l. or 6l. and will fatten 2 small oxen, which, when full fed, will weigh each of them, about 25 stone English weight. I am informed, that the butchers in Edinburgh give to the farmers in that neighbourhood nearly double the value, which I have set upon a turnip crop; but it ought also to be observed, that this is of much more value to the butchers than to the farmers, as the latter must sell their fed cattle, so that the purchaser may have a profit, whereas the former kill them; and selling the meat, skin, and tallow, to their respective buyers, get for all these articles, the current price of the different markets. Besides, for the sake of convenience, the butchers may sometimes be induced to give more than the intrinsic worth of the crop.

The greater part of the hay in this part of the country is made of rye-grass and red clover, the seeds of which are sown with barley, and sometimes with oats or

wheat. If the barley or oats be not too strong, so as to prevent the rye-grass and clover from getting the necessary nutriment, which the light and air afford; and if the soil be good, and properly managed, a luxuriant crop of hay may be expected, for at least two seasons thereafter; and it is generally fit for mowing 3 years. An annual kind of rye-grass has lately been introduced into this neighbourhood, which produces one fine crop; but being so transient, the farmers are getting quit of it as fast as they can. The practice which prevails in England, of laying dung occasionally on the surface of land, which is laid down in grass, might be introduced with advantage into this country. When a grass field, through a series of years, has acquired a close sward, it is of importance to preserve it as long as the weeds can be kept down; and while the soil is enriched by dung, it may be kept a long time clean, by the application of lime. Few fields of cabbages or carrots are cultivated here, though the former are reckoned to be good feeding for black cattle; and the latter, in some parts of England, are esteemed excellent food for horses. The root of scarcity, which is now ascertained to be only a species of the beet, has, so far as I know, never been reared in this parish.

The rolling stone is pretty common here. The machine, called Fanners, for cleaning the grain after it has been thrashed, is much in use among the farmers; but the thrashing machine, which was invented in Scotland a few years ago, has not found its way yet into this parish*.

Extent

* *Price of Provisions, Servants Wages, &c.*—Owing to the bad harvest in 1792, the best oat meal has been sold, during the greatest part of last summer, at 1s. 3d. the peck. It is now to be had at 1s. 1d.; but the common

Extent and Population.—The parish, which is now called West Calder, constituted formerly a part of this one, and the whole was then known by the name of Calder Comitis. From the time of this division, the parish which I am describing, has been denominated Mid-Calder. It is about 7 miles in length from N. to S.; and no part of it is much above 3 miles in breadth. The population, according to Dr. Webster's report in 1755, was 760 souls. It contains, at present, 1251 inhabitants; 689 of whom are in the country part of the parish,

mon price, for many years past, has been 1s. The peck contains 8 lbs. of Scotch Troy, or Dutch weight, the lb. of which is to the Avoirdupoise, or English lb., as 7600 grains is to 7000. Potatoes have been sold here this autumn, when disposed of in quantities, at 4s. 8d. the boll, which contains 16 pecks; and 2 of the pecks, by which potatoes are sold in this place, exceed a Winchester bushel, by $\frac{62}{100}$ parts. There is not much fish brought to this market; but there is plenty of it to be had in Edinburgh; and we have two carriers in this town who go thither twice a week, besides several from different parts of the parish, who go on stated occasions. Our butcher meat is charged 3d., and sometimes 4d., or upwards, a lb. Dutch weight. Poultry is dearer in proportion, and eggs are sold at 4d., 5d., or 6d. the dozen, according to the season of the year, and as circumstances require. New milk costs $\frac{1}{2}$ d. the mutchkin, which is one-tenth less than the English wine pint; and butter milk is sold at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a Scotch pint, which is one-tenth less than an English wine gallon.

A good ploughman will not engage himself for less than 8l. a year, and, in general, he expects more. Along with these wages, he has bed and board in his master's house; but when he is married, and has a cottage of his own, he has allowances of different kinds, which, on the whole, may amount to 15l. or 16l. a year. Footmen, gardeners, &c., have wages in proportion to the circumstances in which they are placed. A female servant, fit for common household work, demands, independent of bed and board, from 3l. 10s. to 4l. a year. Those in a superior line have more, according to their situation. A common labourer, if he find himself with food, gets, at an average, 1s. 2d. a day during that season of the year, when he can work from 6 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock in the evening. A few years ago, a labourer of this kind had no more than 10d. or 1s. The wages of mechanicks have been advanced in proportion.

rish, and the remaining 562 are in the town. The males amount to 588; the females to 663: Thus it appears, that the females exceed the males by 75 in number. Nature, upon the whole, seems to have made the number of males and females nearly equal; and the disproportion, in the present instance, probably arises from this fact, that many of our youths go abroad into other parts of the country to find employment, where trade and manufactures prevail.

By comparing my enumeration of the people in this town, with that which was made by an ingenious mechanick *, about 25 years ago, it appears, that the population thereof has been upon the decline. Several new houses have of late been built, indeed, but many old ones have also fallen into decay: However, the chief cause of the diminution seems to be the influence which trade and commerce have in carrying off our young men to other parts of the country, where engaging prospects of wealth are held out to them †.

This district of the country must be considered as very favourable to health. There is no disease which is peculiarly incident to the people; and there are several persons

* Mr. David Burn, clock and watchmaker, Mid-Calder.

† During the last 3 years, there have been 23 marriages, and 97 baptisms, as appears by the register books belonging to this church. The number of births has, without doubt, exceeded that which I have mentioned, as several children did not live long enough to be baptised; and as those of dissenters are not included, excepting such as chose to have them entered in the parish records, with a view to preserve more permanently the mean of ascertaining, at any future period, the time of their birth, and the family from which they sprung. The number of deaths cannot be condescended on, for many who breathe their last in this parish, are carried out of the bounds of it, and buried where their ancestors, or some of their kindred have been laid before them; and not a few are brought from other parishes to this churchyard, that they may rest with their fathers.

sons in the parish near 80 years of age, and some considerably above it. Though a small part in the southern part of it be open, swampy, and moorish, yet it is so far from being pernicious to the health of the inhabitants, that it seems to have an opposite effect. I know a person who, when he lived in a dry country, and on the sea coast, had frequent and severe fits of the ague; but, upon coming into the neighbourhood of the marshy part of this parish, which I have been taking notice of, and into a moorish situation, he was soon relieved; and for a considerable time past, he has had no returns of his disease. In damp countries, and particularly among the fens of Lincolnshire, the ague is a prevailing malady. Query. Is there any antiseptic quality in the water and exhalations of mossy * ground which has a tendency to prevent this, and other epidemic diseases? It is to be remarked, that the ague is not a very common malady in Scotland.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—It is much to be lamented, that, excepting a small paper mill, nothing which can be called a manufacture, is established in this town or neighbourhood. A few women and girls get employment by sewing or tambouring muslin; but the young men, who remain here, have no other engagements of profit, but common labour, and the mechanical pursuits which are necessary for the demands of the town and parts adjacent. As there is little in which children can be employed, they remain for a long time a burden on the industry of their parents. Mid-Calder is well situated for trade; the markets supply plenty of provisions,

* That which is called moss in Scotland, is the substance of which peat and turf for fuel are formed, and contains in it a great quantity of decomposed wood, and other vegetables.

provisions, the roads are good, and the communication is easy with places of consequence; both at home and abroad. There are several water falls in the neighbourhood; and the value of these would be the more considerable to a manufacturer, as they are near the town, where a great number of hands could be conveniently procured.

The principal disadvantage attending this part of the country, for such establishments as would require much fuel, is the dearness of that article. A few people in the southern district of the parish burn chiefly peats; but coals are most commonly made use of in the other divisions of it; and as they are brought from a distance, the price of them is high. But when I come to treat of minerals, it will appear, that we have good reason to hope for a removal of this disadvantage.

Sects and Parties.—There is an Antiburgher meeting-house in this parish, and one belonging to the Burghers in the parish of East Calder, and at no great distance from this town. There are a few persons in this parish who are of the Church of England; but as there is no minister of that class of Christians nearer than Edinburgh, they attend the church of Mid-Calder. It is pleasing to observe, that of late the violence of party rage, in matters of religion, has much subsided; but charity and brotherly love will not have their desired consummation, till we set less value upon speculative opinions, and judge of men solely by true worth of character.

Stipend, Schools, Poor, &c.—The manse, glebe, and gardens belonging to the minister of Mid-Calder, together

ther with the stipend which he receives, may be valued at 100 guineas a-year. The house is good, and commodious, and the situation of the glebe is beautiful. It has an eastern aspect towards Calder wood; and though adjoining to the town, yet it is so well enclosed and sheltered, that it is very private, and fit for retirement. —The emoluments of the parish schoolmaster, including a good house and school-room, his legal salary from the landholders, and the interest of a sum of money, which was sunk upon an estate in the neighbourhood for the benefit of the schoolmaster; together with the perquisites of being clerk to the church session, independent of school wages, may, upon the whole, be reckoned equal to 30 guineas a-year. There are other 3 schools in the parish; but they have no salary to support them. I know nobody in the parish, above 8 or 10 years of age, who cannot read, and not a few can write and do a little in accounts. These acquirements which are so common among the people in Scotland, are easily seen to proceed from the important regulation of having a school with a fixed salary annexed to it, in every parish *. If the master should not be popular, or if, owing to distance or any other circumstance, the established school does not accommodate the whole children in the parish, yet it keeps alive a sense of education in the country, and induces those who stand in need, to provide schoolmasters for the instruction of their own families and friends.—There are at present in this parish only 19 poor persons, who get a regular supply of money from the church session; but there are a few more who re-

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* The only exceptions to this, I believe, are in large towns, where schools are endowed; but not for individual parishes.

ceive occasional donations. This support is afforded them by voluntary offerings, which are made by people at church, and by levies, which the landholders raise upon themselves*.

Valuation of the Lands, &c.—The ancient value set upon the lands of this parish, by which the taxes affecting the property in land are paid, amounts to 5157l. 10s. Scotch money; the present rental of the whole parish is about 2519l. Sterling. The produce of the different farms, besides a considerable quantity of hay, which is sold at Edinburgh and other places, feeds 480 black cattle, 200 horses, and 2300 sheep. Horses are more numerous here than in some other parts, as the farmers rear several for the market. Comparatively speaking, there are few swine or pigs in the parish.

Hunting, Fishing, Fowling, &c.—Foxes are not scarce in the parish, and hares are very numerous. There are plenty of trouts in the rivers near this town, and a few eels; but no salmon come so far up the Almond as Mid-Calder. In favourable seasons, the sportsman may find no inconsiderable number of grouse, partridges, woodcocks, and snipes in the parish. We have here the blackbird and thrush, the lark, linnet, and goldfinch, as well as the other fowls and birds which are common in general to Scotland. In Calder wood the bullfinches are

* Though there be no poor's rates established by law in Scotland, yet by old acts of the Scotch parliament, the landlords are required to relieve the poor, and attend to their condition; but by the same acts, they are empowered to raise one half of the money, which they lay out for this purpose, from the inhabitants of the parish, who are not on the poor's roll.

are pretty numerous ; and this is the more remarkable, as they are not common in the neighbourhood.

Manners, mode of Living, Dress and Customs—The manners of the present generation are more simple than those of the preceding ; and though we have reason to mourn over prevailing vices, yet some of the more flagrant breaches of decency and virtue, such as profane swearing and drunkenness, are not so common in the more improved circles as they were formerly. The people here are, upon the whole, sober and virtuous ; though we must expect to find among them some of the vices which prevail in similar situations.

The old farm houses and cottages in the parish are mostly built of stone and lime, but all thatched, have small windows, and few accommodations. Several of those which have been more recently reared are covered with slates or tiles, have sash windows, and are more commodious ; but, except in upper stories, we generally find them with earthen floors, which are often damp, and neither cleanly nor healthful. Gentlemens houses are, many of them, built with elegance and taste in various parts of this country. There are no old castles in the neighbourhood which are capable of being inhabited.

Oat meal made into porridge, and a thin, hard kind of bread, made also of oat meal, together with milk, butter and cheese, constitute a considerable part of the food, which is common to the inferior, as well as the middle classes of the people. Butcher meat is more in use among them of late, and the practice of drinking tea is every day becoming more common. Not many years ago, loaves made of flour were rarely to be found in the country, unless in gentlemens families ; but now

they are more frequently made use of by all ranks of the people.

The tartan * or red plaids, close caps, with or without ribbons, gowns, petticoats, and stockings of home manufacture, which, 30 or 40 years ago, constituted the dress of women in the inferior conditions of life, gradually gave way to clothes made of red or blue English cloth, and other approaches to an improved dress; and these in their turn are now yielding to the dress cap, the silk bonnet, or beaver hat, printed or other cotton gowns, white petticoats, white thread or cotton stockings, and fine shoes or slippers. Formerly the best handkerchiefs for the neck were strong cambrick, but now they are of fine muslin, and sometimes there is an addition of a shawl, of 5s. or 7s. value.

With respect to the men, labourers and mechanicks, 20 years ago, wore a woollen bonnet on their head, they had coat, waistcoat, and breeches of cloth, which was manufactured in private families; their stockings were spun and knit at home, or by some neighbours; and their shoes were rather strong than neat. Now they wear hats of different qualities, coats of English made cloth, striped or white waistcoats, corduroy or fustian breeches, fine cotton or thread stockings, and slight neat shoes. Thus they are equipped when they are in dress; but in days of labour, they are clothed in a way more suitable to their various engagements. As to the higher ranks of both sexes, their dress is much the same as it is in the southern parts of the island, and the fashions of London soon find their way hither.

I find no customs peculiar to this part of the country. In general, the people are attached to that which was
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* A well known Highland manufacture.

the practice of their forefathers ; though the changes attending times and circumstances be gradually producing their effects. In what relates to agriculture, food, and clothing, they have departed farthest from the habits of their ancestors.

Though the Scotch be the prevailing language of the country, yet, by the influence of those who have a more extended intercourse with the world, the people here are making evident approaches toward a more intimate acquaintance with the English tongue, which is the more desirable, as, since the union of England and Scotland, the language of the court of London has been received as the standard language of the united kingdoms.

Feudal Customs.—All the estates in Scotland hold of the Crown or Prince of Wales, by a nominal or trifling quit rent ; and the original proprietors, when disposing of their lands, frequently sold them under the condition of receiving a small annual feu-duty, or chief rent. The same practice is continued till this day ; consequently a person may enjoy a large estate, which is all subject to a feu-duty, payable to him who holds immediately of the Crown or the Prince.—Many farmers in this parish, as well as in other parts of Scotland, are bound to have their grain ground at certain mills, which belong to the proprietors of the estates on which they live. This is called thirlage, and is considered as a grievance, as they not only pay more than when they are left at liberty, but as they are thus prevented from going where their convenience or interest leads them.

Mines, Minerals, &c.—There are every where many indications of coal in this neighbourhood, such as in-

durated clay, and a petriolic schistus, which burns with a bright flame, but leaves a large residue of ashes. Schistus of this kind seems to differ very little from coal, but by having combined with it a smaller quantity of the bituminous principle. Moreover, coal has been got in different parts of the country not far from this; and it is to be hoped, that circumstances will occur, which will give sufficient encouragement to have it wrought for the benefit of people in the neighbourhood. There is good free stone in the parish; not much granite, and many of the rocks are a species of indurated clay. There is plenty of iron stone, and some of it effervesces considerably with an acid. There is also lime stone; and in the parish of East Calder, about 1 mile from this town, Lord Morton has a quarry, where the stratum is 60 feet in thickness.—Upon the whole, let me quote a passage from a survey, which Mr. Williams has lately made of the estates belonging to Sir William Augustus Cunyngham of Livingston, Baronet, which are in this neighbourhood, contiguous to the rivers Brierch and Almond. “Beside the coal and lime, the quantity of good iron stone which crosses these rivers is so very great, that if a canal come this way,” which has lately been in contemplation, “the vicinity of these rivers will soon become an important scene of manufactures and very useful improvements.”

On the estate of Letham, belonging to Sir W. A. Cunyngham there is a spring of sulphureous water. It does not appear to be different from other fountains of that kind. Like the waters of Harrowgate, and other sulphureous springs, it has been found to be beneficial in various diseases; but more especially in cases of scrofula and gravel. The influence which has been ascribed

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to the carbonic acid in calculous affections, might lead a person to suppose, that it contains a portion of that acid; but it was evident to me, on examination, that it did not. Dr. Beddoes, in his *Observations on the Nature and Cure of Calculus, &c.* asserts, that it is not the carbonic acid, but the alkali; which is generally administered along with this acid, which has the medicinal effect. Perhaps it may be allowed, that they both have a tendency to remove this disease. The alkali then, which, in conjunction with the sulphur, forms the hepatic smell of these waters, may be the principal agent which yields relief to patients in cases of gravel; and the attenuated sulphur, which constitutes a part of the hepatic vapour, may be the mean of promoting a cure in scrofulous disorders. But the truth is, that in mineral and calcareous waters there are many combinations, and volatile substances, whose nature and effects are hitherto unknown.

Eminent and Remarkable Characters.—Among the few persons of note in this parish, whose names have been handed down to us, I shall begin with Sir James Sandilands of Calder. He was a man of ability and eminence, and being a knight of the order of Malta, he was, by his worth and influence, raised to the preceptory of Torphichen, in the county of Linlithgow, where the order to which he belonged had their principal residence in Scotland, and where the ruins of their house and chapel are still to be seen. He was engaged in several important negotiations during the Reformation of religion in Scotland; and when Popery was overturned, the preceptory of Torphichen was converted into a temporal barony, and it, together with the title and dignity
of

of a Lord of Parliament, was conferred on Sir James ; for which he immediately paid 10,000 crowns, and became bound that 500 merks should be paid annually to the sovereign, by him and those who should succeed him. The title has remained in the family ever since ; and the present representative is the Right Honourable James Sandilands Lord Torphichen. This family have long been respectable, not only for the rank in which they are placed, but also for their decency of conduct, and their attention to the duties of religion.

Mr. John Spottiswood, of the family of that name in Merse, was parson of Calder Comitis. He resided here chiefly, during the perilous times of the Reformation. When the ferment subsided, he was chosen superintendent of the churches in Lothian, Merse, and Teviotdale, as the bishops had lost their power, and the Presbyterian form of government, in its present state, was not then established. He discharged the duties connected with his station, so as to merit respect and approbation *. When he became old and infirm, his son John, at the age of 18, succeeded him, as parson of Calder Comitis. But he did not long continue in this situation : he was made Archbishop of Glasgow, after the hierarchy of the Church of England prevailed in Scotland, as it did for a time ; he was one of King James I. of England's Privy Counsellors ; crowned Charles the First in the chapel of Holyroodhouse ; and died Archbishop of St. Andrew's. He was the same Spottiswood who wrote a History of the Church of Scotland †.

Antiquities.

* See Spottiswood's History of the Church of Scotland, page 344.

† A person of the name of Moodie, who appears to have been a native or inhabitant of this place, was carrier while the plague was in Scotland.

Antiquities.—Not many roods to the S. of Calder manse, stands the house of Greenbank, which has a garden and a few acres of land belonging to it. It was formerly in the possession of the superintendant Spottiswood and his son, as it appears both from tradition, and the following quotation from an old deed of conveyance: “All and whole that mansion house, built by the deceased Mr. John Spottiswood, grandfather of umquhill, that is, deceased, Sir John Spottiswood of Dairfie, Knight, and by the deceased John Archbishop of St. Andrew’s.” The property was lately purchased by Lord Torphichen. In the house, there is a portrait of the superintendant; and till lately, there was a bed in it, which had probably belonged to the family of the archbishop. The posts of it were massy, and had various figures carved upon it. It stood in a closet, which is lined with tapestry, in excellent preservation.

Calderhouse, the seat of Lord Torphichen, is situated a little to the W. of the town. In the gallery of paintings there, I found the following inscription on the back of Mr. Knox’s picture. “Mr. John Knox. The first sacrament of the supper given in Scotland after the Reformation, was dispensed by him in this hall.” Between Calderhouse and the town, at the top of the passage, which leads by the side of the churchyard, there is a single plane tree. The trunk of it is 14 feet high, the

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land. He took provisions to Edinburgh, though the contagion was peculiarly dreadful there. He escaped the infection, as it would appear, and amassed a considerable fortune, by being well paid, as we may presume, for the danger which he encountered. He left a sum of money for the benefit of a schoolmaster in Calder, the interest of which is annexed to the salary paid by the landholders, for the support of our parish school. It is also said, that he devoted more of his property to other purposes of utility and benevolence.

circumference of the thickest part 18 feet, and the branches spread themselves out at least 30 feet on either side. On the whole, it has a grand, as well as an ancient appearance *.

The church of Mid-Calder is built in the Gothic manner. There is no date nor record, by which the time of its erection can be ascertained. There is only that part of the edifice, which was intended for the chancel. The building must either have been stopped by the want of money, or by the agitations which took place during the time of the Reformation. The old building being too small for the accommodation of the people, it was deemed necessary to enlarge it. The new erection is at the W. end; and not being built in the same style, rather hurts the appearance without; but the additional part is not much seen from the street. The church within is both neat and commodious.

On both sides of the river Almond, but especially on the southern banks, from Livingston, to its confluence with the sea below Kirkliston, which is a space of, at least, 14 or 15 miles, there have been found many skeletons of the human body remaining in stone coffins. It appears, that the Almond was considered as an important pass, and, on some extraordinary occasion, was obstinately defended by two contending armies. Without any positive proof, and amidst many conjectures, it is impossible to know whether it happened when the Saxons drove the natives to the N. side of the Forth, or in the days when the Picts and Scots were at war, or when

* There are large protuberances upon the tree, where we are told the jugs were formerly fixed. The word jug is probably derived from the Latin *jugum*. They are two bent pieces of iron, which were padlocked about the neck of culprits, for certain small offences. So far as I know, the use of them is now entirely laid aside.

When Malcolm, the general of the heir of the Scotch crown, was attacked by the Emperor Constantine IV. Nay, for any thing we can shew to the contrary, it may have taken place at some critical period, the history of which has not been transmitted to us, and which is now no otherwise known; but by the dreadful memorials which are held out to us by the remains of so many warriors slain in the field*.

There are several mounds in this neighbourhood which appear to be barrows, where dead bodies were deposited. This mode of burying was as ancient as the siege of Troy †.

Report bears, that in the battle which has been alluded to, a considerable person; or leader, fell, who was buried in the churchyard of East Calder. The stone which marks the spot where his body was laid, is still to be seen on the S. side of the church, at a little distance from the wall, and nearly opposite to the middle of it. The stone is a segment of an octagon, containing 4 of its sides.

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* That this conflict was about the end of the 16th century, between Constantine and Malcolm, seems to be supported by the following inscription, which was taken many years ago from a stone which stands near Kirkliston; and which, by the people in the neighbourhood, is called Cate Stane.

" In Hoc Tum. Jac. Constan. Vic. Vi&. §."

I have seen a different copy of this inscription; but it was not so perfect, and was probably transcribed at a later period, when the letters were more defaced. It may be objected, that if any of the Romans had fallen in this battle, we might have found ashes and urns; but neither bones nor coffins belonging to them. To which it may be answered, that burning the dead was not general among the Romans, till toward the end of the Republic; and that it gradually fell into disuse, and was altogether laid aside about the end of the 4th century.

† See Dalszel's Translation of Chevalier's Plains of Troy, chap. 12—16.

‡ See Earl Bunsen's Discourse at the commencement of the Antiquarian Society in Edinburgh.

It has the resemblance of a spear, or cross, elevated on a pole cut upon the top of it. The warriors name is said to have been Clair ; and hence we may suppose the parish of East Calder was anciently called Calder Clericus : And hence too, perhaps, if he were a Christian, may have been derived the surname, St. Clair, or Sinclair.

Witchcraft.—There is a well known report, that, in days of old, witches were burnt at Calder. A mound between the northern part of this town, and the banks of the river Almond, is pointed out as the scene of their sufferings. But, if ever these acts of cruelty were realized in this place, they must have been done at so remote a period, that nothing but a vague tradition now remains. It is an undoubted fact, however, that about the end of the last century, persons accused of witchcraft were examined and watched in the town of Mid-Calder ; but it does not appear, that any were doomed to the flames. The intention of keeping them in confinement, was to bring them to a confession of their guilt. They were extremely careful to keep them awake ; for an idea was entertained, that if they were permitted to sleep, their spirits left them, and went abroad to do mischief*.

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* There are people living at this day, who have in their youth conversed with some of those who were employed to guard persons suspected of witchcraft. The method which they took to keep them awake, was to pierce their flesh with pins, needles, awls, or other sharp pointed instruments. To rescue them from that oppression, which sleep imposed upon their almost exhausted nature, they sometimes made use of irons, heated to a state of redness. Arnot, in his Criminal Trials, mentions devices of cruelty more inhuman still, which, in some places, had been exercised on persons who were accused of a spirit of witchcraft. When those of inferior fortitude refused, under the common instruments of torture, to acknowledge

It behoves us to rejoice, that we live in happier times, when the darkness of error is fast giving way to the light of reason, truth, and science. As this darkness is removed, so will those opinions, prejudices, and spectres die, to which ignorance and credulity gave birth. I cannot say, that the belief in witchcraft has entirely left the people in this parish; but it appears to have little influence either on their lives or their conduct. While some give no credit to it at all, but impute the whole of it to delusion, the most general opinion among the common people, is, that it did formerly prevail; but they are convinced, that the power of the gospel has now put it to flight. May the human mind daily increase in wisdom, and assert more and more its native dignity, till it rise superior to folly, superstition, and vice!

knowledge themselves guilty, they inflicted torments upon a friend, a husband, or even a darling infant; adding the most exquisite sensibility of mind to the acutest pains of the body, and thus compelling them to say any thing which their enemies desired; as, in that situation they must have preferred death, however dreadful, to a life of misery and despair. But among those who were tried for witchcraft, we may believe, that many supposed, and were convinced, that they were in possession of its power. The same spirit of credulity, which led people, in general, at that time, to believe in witchcraft, would induce some of the weaker sort to imagine, that they were endued with the art. Those who dealt in witchcraft used enchantments; and among the variety which they employed, it is more than probable, that some of those things which they had a wish to accomplish, really took place in the common course of events. When an instance or two of this kind happened, they were as firmly of opinion, that it was done by their power, as the few who, in distant places, even yet pretend to charms, are fully persuaded, that, by these means, they can prevent disasters, or cure diseases.

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF SPEYMOOUTH.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF MURRAY, PRESBYTERY OF
ELGIN.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES GILLAN.

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE parish of Speymouth is bounded by the Murray Frith on the N., and by the river Spey, which separates it from the county of Banff, on the E. It extends about $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length from N. to S., and about $1\frac{1}{2}$, at an average, in breadth from E. to W. It is composed of the 2 old parishes of Effil and Dipple, which were united in the 1731, when the present name was given to the united parish, from its situation at the mouth of Spey. The harbour, or mouth of Spey, is, according to observation on the spot, W. longitude 3 deg. 6 min., latitude 57 deg. 41 min. *

* A few of the names of the places appear to be of Gaelic extraction, as Dipple, the name of one of the old parishes, is said to signify the "black"

Face of the Country, Soil and Climate.—At the distance of about half a mile from the sea, the ground rises suddenly to a small hill. Beyond this, there is almost one continued plain for $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, bounded on the side towards the river by a steep bank from 40 to 50 feet in height. At the end of this plain, the ground again rises and terminates in a high hill to the S. The soil is for the most part light. About one half of the arable ground is good fertile soil, being a light loam, of sufficient depth, on a bottom of black earth or clay; the other half is a thin, gravelly, sharp soil, on a hard gravelly bottom; in some parts it is sandy. The grounds below the bank above mentioned, and between it and the river, are almost all very good soil, especially that part towards the S., called the Haugh of Dipple, extending about a mile in length, and $3\text{--}4$ ths of a mile in breadth. The cultivated ground lies, for the most part, on the side towards the river; but towards the two extremities, it falls back nearly the whole breadth of the parish. About the middle also, there are 2 pretty extensive farms near the boundary to the W. The cultivated ground is equal to about one third part of the whole extent of the parish: the pasture ground will be about 530 acres: there are about 300 acres in plantations of wood: about 50 acres of moss ground: 110 acres of pebbles, or bare beach, along the river

or deep pool," viz. in the river Spey. Effil, the name of the ether, is said to signify "low." Garmouth, or, as it is commonly pronounced, and probably should be written Garmach, a town or village situated at the mouth of Spey, is said to signify the "rough outlet," either from the rapidity of the river, or the roughness of the beach near its mouth. Balmacoul, the "town of Caul:" Lunan, a "low lying place on the side of a river."

river and sea side : all the rest, equal to about the half of the whole extent of the parish, is moor.

The air is pure, the climate comparatively temperate and mild, and the situation consequently healthy. The most prevalent complaint seems to be rheumatism, which may proceed chiefly from an inattention to wet clothes, and from the cold N. E. winds in spring. It has been long said, that the low part of Murray has 40 days more of fair weather in the year than any other country in the N. of Scotland ; and this part of it towards Spcy is reckoned the driest part of the country. And there is no doubt, that from April to October, we have generally much more dry weather than the countries in the neighbourhood. Indeed, what the farmer fears most, in the low part of Murray, is the droughts that often take place here in the month of July. But it may be observed, that the lightness and thinness of our soil in general renders it particularly liable to injury from drought. For the same reason, a showery summer is very favourable to it, and even that quantity of rain, which is very hurtful in most parts of Scotland through the summer, and especially in the higher parts of the country in this neighbourhood, is beneficial through the greatest part of the low country of Murray, and especially in this parish. Accordingly, in the year 1782, when there was such a failure in the crop through the greatest part of Scotland, from the excessive rains, it is believed, there was a sufficiency here for the consumption of the country ; and that many of our farmers made more profit than usual by that crop, from the high prices. It has been observed by many, that the summers have been more rainy since the year 1782, than for a considerable time before, and that the crops in our dry

dry light grounds have consequently been better. The medium depth of rain water fallen in a year, will be about 24 inches.

The most prevalent winds all along the coast of Murray are from the S. W. They may be said to prevail for two-thirds of the year. Perhaps the greatest defect in the temperature of our climate is the cold N. E. winds, that commonly prevail in the months of April and May, which often retard the growth of the corns, and especially of the grafs, and are very severe on delicate constitutions. This is an inconvenience that is felt over almost all the E. coast of Britain; but is particularly so in situations like this, which are open, and exposed to the N. and E. Perhaps it might tend to lessen this inconvenience, if strips of wood were planted at certain distances where the country is level.

Population, &c.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 994. The number of souls in this parish, according to an accurate list taken in 1792, is 1347.

Males,	-	655	From 20 to 50,	-	512
Females,	-	692	From 50 to 70,	-	216
Under 10 years of age,	304		From 70 to 80,	-	86
From 10 to 20,	-	210	From 80 to 90,	-	19

Two or three of which last are 90, or on the verge of it. The number of houses inhabited is 310. The number of persons to a family is $4\frac{1}{2}$, at an average.—The register of baptisms, deaths, and marriages is not complete for many years past, as the people will not always be at the trouble and expence to have them recorded. This has been the case, especially since the duty was imposed. But, from notes taken by the minister for some

time past, the average number of marriages for a year appears to be 10; of deaths, 28; of baptisms, 43. The number of the males baptised is to that of the females as 17 to 16*.

There are in this parish at present 12 English and 2 Irishmen. There are 5 of the Episcopal persuasion; 40 Roman Catholics; all the rest are of the Established Church.—There are 71 farmers, 8 weavers, 7 tailors, 5 blacksmiths, 3 coopers, 10 joiners, 32 ship carpenters and blockmakers, 20 sawyers, 8 saw millers, 3 corn millers, 30 seamen, 6 shopkeepers, 45 salmon fishers, 8 ferrymen, 5 inn and ale-house keepers; the rest are servants, cottagers, day-labourers, carriers, &c.

Agriculture.—This cannot be said to be yet in a state of great improvement in this parish in general. Some
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* The parish register was kept by a former minister, from the 1731 to the 1750; and as it has every appearance of uncommon accuracy, it may be proper to insert some notes from it here.

The number of souls in the parish in the year 1736, is stated to be 994, of which the examinable persons are 844; the children not examinable 150. The average of baptisms for a year, of 9 years, of which the above year (1736) is the middle, that is, from 1732 to 1740, inclusive, is 35 7-9ths. The number of males baptised during all these years is 162; of females, is 160. The average of marriages for the same time is 8. The average of burials is 24 1-9th; of which there is about 1-5th more of females than males; viz. males 10 8-9ths, females 13 2-9ths. A greater number of years is not taken, because the register is not complete before the year 1732, and because, in the 1741 and 1742, there is an extraordinary number of deaths, no less than 112 for these 2 years. This uncommon mortality is to be accounted for, partly from the small pox which raged at that time. But it may probably be also accounted for, in some measure, from the great failure in crop 1740. It is said in the parish record, that a fast was appointed by the synod in November 1740, on account of the threatened famine. From the same cause, perhaps, the baptisms are so few in 1742.

of the better sort of the farmers raise turnips and artificial grasses, but not to the extent that could be wished. Their general mode of cropping is, 2 crops of oats after grass; then barley or bear (big) with dung; or, instead of this, turnips, potatoes, and pease, and then bear; next oats with grass seeds, or pease and rye after the bear; and then oats with grass seeds. The grass is cut for hay the first 2 years; is pastured on for a year or 2 more, and then broken up for oats as before. The proportions for grass seeds generally used are, 12 lb. red clover, and 5 lb. of white, with 2 bushels rye grass. They generally find profit in adding 2 lb. more of red clover, and half a bushel, or even a bushel of rye grass. They have begun to add 2 or 3 lb. of rib grass, for the sake of the pasture. In the low grounds, near the river, they raise some wheat, and this generally after turnips or potatoes. The proportion of ground under grass in such farms, will not generally be above 1-fourth of the whole.

This mode of farming will appear faulty from the great proportion that is under crop. But the practice of the lesser farmers, who are by far the greatest number, is still more objectionable. Their common method is to take 2 or 3 crops of oats after ley; then bear with dung; then a crop, partly oats, partly rye; then 2 crops more of oats; and when the ground is now sufficiently exhausted, to leave it out in ley or natural grass. Sometimes they sow a little pease the second crop after the ground has been dunged for bear; and this gives them an additional crop of oats, which is their great object. It is very common here to mix about a fourth or fifth part of rye with the oats, the first or second crop after bear; and this they account a very profitable method.

as they say they have the rye over and above what they would otherwise have in oats, They allow the ground to rest in ley, sometimes 4 years, but generally no more than 3: The proportion of such ley is not above a fifth, or even a sixth of their farm. This frequency of cropping will no doubt appear strange; yet it is not peculiar to this place. It was pretty much the universal practice over the N. of Scotland, not very many years ago, and is still pretty general among the smaller tenants: They seem to acknowledge the error of this practice here, but say, they cannot do otherwise, as they must raise so much corn; for bread to their families, and fodder to their cattle. Oats is the staple produce of the parish, and seem to answer best with the soil in general. The oats here generally used are of a kind peculiar to the place, called Haugh or Dipple oats; and when sown in ground properly prepared, are of an excellent quality. They are a middle kind, between the early and late oats; and are beginning to be in request in the neighbourhood. Rye succeeds very well in our light soil. In some places, barley is used; but in general Scots bear or big is preferred, as a richer crop. Neither the one or the other are found to succeed very well in the upper parts of the parish; nor are pease or red clover found to answer well, except in the grounds below the bank or nigh the Spey. To produce grass fit for making hay, or pease, or even barley or bear, in any proportion, lime is found necessary in most parts of the ground above the bank. But with the assistance of lime, all these crops succeed very well: and, from the experience of the best farmers in this neighbourhood, it is found, that lime is particularly adapted to light, thin, dry soil, especially such as has been originally improved
out

but of moor, and is consequently of a moorish nature. On such a soil, it is found to have the most powerful effect, and to make it produce the above mentioned crops, viz. grass, pease, and bear or barley, in abundance, which it would not do before; even with the best dressing and dunging. This effect it must produce, not only from its acting as a stimulus, but from its power also of deepening the soil, and especially of retaining the moisture; a circumstance of the first importance in this, light, dry ground. Our farmers here are sensible of the great benefit of lime to their grounds; but some cannot afford, and others grudge the expense; and thus not a great deal is yet used. It is to be had from the distance of about 6 or 7 miles, in the parishes of Boharm and Keith, in the county of Banff, of the best quality; and when carried by the owners, as it generally is, it costs about 9d. the boll; that is, 3 Winchester bushels pretty nearly: when brought only to the other side of the Spey, it costs generally 7d. or $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. The trouble and expense of ferrying it over the Spey is a great and almost unsurmountable bar to the general use of it here. Among the many advantages that would result from a bridge over Spey, the removing of this difficulty would be one of the most important, not only to this parish, but to all the eastern part of Murray.

Turnips and potatoes answer extremely well in our light soil, even without lime. But as our grounds are almost all unenclosed, and cattle and sheep, for the most part, go at large during the winter, there is a great discouragement in raising turnips, and little are therefore yet raised. There is nearly the same inconvenience with respect to sown grass; the sheep either pluck it up by the root, or eat it so bare, as to prevent its coming

ing to any perfection in the summer. Even our lesser farmers are sensible of the great advantage of turnips and sown grass; but as they have almost all some sheep; and are unwilling to keep them during the winter, they choose rather to forego this advantage. The better sort of farmers endeavour to enforce winter keeping; but the attempt is generally very unpopular and troublesome, and oft-times ineffectual. It is to be hoped, that it will succeed better by degrees.—Every family raises a certain quantity of potatoes. The farmers raise them often without dung, and even in the grounds that are most exhausted. They plough the ground 3 or 4 times, and plant them after the plough in the end of April or beginning of May. They harrow them at different times; and sometimes give them a very shallow ploughing before they begin to spring above ground. This they find lessens the trouble of hoeing, but it renders them somewhat later. Planting them without dung, has also this effect; nor is the crop so rich as it would be with dung; but it is still tolerable, if the ground be kept clean, and the potatoe is thought better in quality.

For barley or bear, it is the practice here, and through all Murray, to give 3 ploughings; one after harvest, one in April, and the last, with dung, from the middle of May to the 8th of June, which is thought the best time for sowing this grain here. For oats after bear, they give one ploughing in spring: for oats, after ley or grass, they plough after harvest, or after the first strong frost. Sometimes they give a rib furrow to the ley in harvest, or early in autumn, in order to rot the sward in due time. For a second or third successive crop of oats, and for a crop of rye, they almost always give a rib furrow after harvest; and this is found to
answer

answer well. Oats are sown in the month of April; pease about the same time; rye after harvest, or in March. The produce, at an average, will not be above 4 bolls the acre. The parish will supply itself for common. The plough generally used is of the small kind, here called the English plough. In some of the stronger grounds, they use the Scotch plough, somewhat less and lighter than of old; and this, when properly constructed, is perhaps the best form of any, in every kind of soil.

The number of horses in the parish will be about 194; of black cattle about 636; of sheep about 2000; of swine or hogs about 40. The better sort of farmers keep horses of a good size, 2 of which are able to draw a plough; but the generality of the horses are of a smaller size, but strong and hardy. The cattle are generally of a small size; such as when fed for the butcher, will weigh from 20 to 22 stone. A mixture of the Highland breed is now generally preferred and adopted all over this country, as being the handsomest and most hardy. The sheep are generally of a very small kind. Some time ago, the Linton breed was sought after, as being of a larger size. But their wool was found to be much coarser, and they were not found to thrive so well with our pasture, as the old native breed of the country; nor was their flesh thought so delicate. The old native breed is therefore now preferred here, and almost all over Murray. Their wool is of the finest quality, approaching, it is said, to the Cheviot and Shetland wool. They will generally weigh, when fed for the butcher, about 7 or 8 lb. the quarter. The better sort of farmers use ploughs drawn by 2 stout horses. Some few use 6 or 8 oxen in the plough. But the most common draught

draught for the plough in this parish is 2 horses of a moderate size, with 4 oxen, or a mixture of oxen and cows behind them; sometimes 2 horses with 2 oxen; and some are now beginning to plough with 2 oxen only. There are about 140 carts in the parish, almost all of 1 horse draught; and this is found to be the most convenient mode.

There are 3 corn mills within the parish, to one or other of which all the lands in the parish are allotted. The multure, or the proportion paid for grinding the corns, will be about an eleventh part of the quantity ground. The tenants are likewise bound to support the mill-house and dam, and to carry the mill-stones. It were better that mills were generally laid open, and that, instead of high multures and mill-services, a proportionable additional rent were paid by the tenant to the landlord directly.

Extent of Farms, Rent of Lands, &c.—The farms in this parish are generally of very small extent. There are about 6 from 60 to 80 acres in extent, and from 40l. to 50l. of rent, which employ 2 ploughs; about 3 or 4 from 40 to 50 acres, and from 20l. to 30l. rent; about 15, from 20 to 35 acres, and from 10l. to 20l. rent. All the rest, being nearly double the number of the former, are from 10l. down to 5l. or even 4l. rent, and of a proportionable extent in acres; and most of these have a separate plough. The rent of the lands in the country part of the parish, is from 15s. to 5s. the acre. The average will be very nearly 10s. the acre on the whole. The lands belonging to the town of Garmouth, are let at from 20s. to 30s. the acre, and some small parts as high as 50s.: But the average will be about 25s. the acre. This

higher rent arises from the populousness of the town of Garmouth, and the consequent greater demand *.

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* The above account of the small extent of our farms, will appear surprising to most people. But it is to be observed, that the greater part of the North of Scotland, about 30 years ago, was let in small farms. And there can be little doubt, that farms, of a moderate extent, are the most favourable to the population of a country. The farmers of this parish, who only labour from 14 to 20 acres, and pay only from 6*l.* to 9*l.* of rent, support families of healthy children, have them taught to read, and generally to write a little, and train them to industry and virtue. They will also perhaps accommodate a cottager with a house on their small farm, some poor or infirm relation, or a tradesman, or day-labourer. Six such farms may support perhaps 40 persons, young and old, besides accommodating cottagers and their families. But all these together, would be reckoned but a small or moderate farm in many places, and would not probably support above a dozen of persons. If, then, the number of the people be the strength of a nation, there seems little room to doubt, in answering the question as to the propriety of large or small farms, that in a public or political view, as well as that of humanity, the latter are to be preferred to the former. The mode of cultivation, and of laying out the lands, will not probably be in so improved a taste in small as in large farms; but the produce, on the whole, it is probable, will be equal, and even much greater in the article of grain, which is the most valuable. And even as to the cropping and laying out of the ground, the proprietor may take care that this be done in a proper manner, by a little attention in laying down regulations in the tenant's lease, and seeing that these regulations be followed. And as to the improvement of new grounds, he may also secure that point as effectually, by binding the tenant in the same way. And even with respect to the proprietor's interest, which must always be a leading consideration, it is presumed, that small tenants can afford to pay as high a rent as greater ones, from their superior industry and attention; and if one should now and then fall in arrears, the risk is not so great as when the same thing happens to a greater tenant; or if the proprietor's interest should suffer a little, for it cannot be a great deal, yet he has the satisfaction of giving support to a greater number of people, which, it is hoped, will always be an object of no small consideration with many. The extent of farms should vary, according to the quality of the soil, and the circumstances of the country. The best general rule seems to be,

The real rent of the whole lands of the parish cannot be exactly ascertained, as one part (the lands of Garmouth) is feued out, and is mostly in the possession of the feuars themselves. Besides the lands, there is a very valuable salmon fishing on Spey, belonging to this parish, from the sea for $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles up the river. The real rent of this fishing is considerably greater than that of the lands in the parish. The valued rent of the lands is 2771l. 17s. 1d. Scotch money. The valued rent of the fishery is 2541l. 17s. 8d. Scotch.

Heritors.—The Duke of Gordon is proprietor of the greater part of the lands of this parish, and superior of the rest. Of the fishery on Spey in this parish, he is proprietor of 7-9ths. The Earl of Murray is proprietor of the remaining 2-9ths. There is a considerable number of smaller heritors or feuars, who have feus of different extent of the lands of Garmouth, all holding of the Duke of Gordon as superior. The greater part of them reside in Garmouth, and possess their own feus. Several of them are in opulent circumstances. One keeps a carriage.

Church,

be, to allow as much ground to a farm as can be laboured with one plough; much less than this, would be a loss to the tenant. Here and there, however, there should be larger farms, and farmers of greater ability and skill, to give examples of new and more improved modes of culture, and thereby introduce improvements into the country at large. The Duke of Gordon, agreeably to that humane system which he follows on all his estates, on renewing, of late, the leases in this parish, continued almost all the small tenants in their possessions; and such of the farmers as had subtenants, he took bound to continue them also in the grounds they had before, or to allow them an equivalent in some other part of their farm, if that were more convenient, according to the judgment of men mutually chosen. This is an example that ought to be generally followed, as it tends to prevent subordinate oppression, and to keep the people in the country.

Church, Schools, Poor, &c.—The church was built in the year 1732, soon after the annexation of the parishes, in a centrical situation for the united parish; but though of so late a date, is in very bad condition. The manse was built about the same time, at a little distance from the church, and lately underwent a thorough repair. The offices were rebuilt of late. The stipend, by decret of annexation 1731, is 77 bolls 1 firiot 2 pecks bear, 32 bolls 1½ peck oatmeal, at 8½ stone the boll, and 340l. Scotch. The glebe is about 25 acres, being given as an equivalent for the two glebes of the annexed parishes: The Earl of Murray and Sir. William Gordon of Gordonstown, present *per vices*. Our boll in Murray is very near the Linlithgow measure, and 1½ boll, nearly equal to the quarter English, is generally allowed for a boll of oats. The parochial school, was some time ago fixed at Garmouth, though at one extremity of the parish, as being the most populous place. The schoolmaster's salary is 8½ bolls meal, and 2½ bolls bear. He has also 100 merks as the interest of 2000 merks, mortified by a Mr. Patrick Gordon, watch maker in Edinburgh, for the behoof of a schoolmaster in this his native place *.

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* He has 2l. Sterling as session clerk; 1s. for every proclamation of marriage; 4d. for every baptism recorded; 4d. for every certificate granted by the kirk-session, and as much for every extract. The school fees are, 1s. the quarter for teaching reading; 1s. 4d. for reading and writing; 1s. 8d. for arithmetic; and 2s. for Latin: For book-keeping, half a guinea. The number of scholars is generally from 40 to 50. The number of Latin scholars is now much less than it used to be here, and at all our schools in the N. We have lately got another schoolmaster at the other end of the parish, from the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. He has 10l. Sterling a year from the Society. The Duke of Gordon gives him a house and kail yard, and 2l. Sterling; and he has 2½ merks mortified for the schoolmaster of one of the old parishes, by one of the ancestors of the Earl of Fife. The number of scholars at this school may

The number on our poor's roll is generally about 40. The poor's funds are the collections at the church, which will amount to about 20l. Sterling in the year, dues for the mortcloth, and 4l. 3s. 4d. Sterling a year, mortified for the poor of this parish by the above mentioned William Duff, Esq. of Dipple, ancestor of the Earl of Fife, and paid by his Lordship. That gentleman, much to his honour, made similar charitable donations to several parishes in this neighbourhood *.

Prices and Wages.—Beef and mutton are sold at from 2d. to 4d. the pound Dutch. The average price will be about 2½d.; a hen 7½; a duck 8d.; eggs 2d. the dozen; butter 6d. the pound Dutch, of 17½ oz. The boll of bear or barley, nearly the Linlithgow measure, has for these 10 years past, been generally from 15s. to 18s.; oatmeal at 8 stone, 13s. 4d.; wool 18s. the stone of 21 lb. Dutch. The wages of men servants have been tripled within

may be about 30, at an average; and there are sometimes as many more at an evening school, kept in the winter by this schoolmaster. There is another mortification of 25 merks, for the schoolmaster of the other old parish, left by the same ancestor of the Earl of Fife, and now enjoyed by a superannuated teacher. Besides these, there are 2 or 3 poor women in the parish, who teach children to read. Even the poorest of the people take care to have all their children taught to read, and most of the boys learn a little writing and arithmetick.

* The session-clerk has 2l., and the kirk-officer 1l. a-year of salary out of the poor's funds. There are commonly two general distributions in the year, and occasional supplies are given to the most necessitous. Poor's rates are not known in this part of the country, and perhaps the poor are on as proper a footing. The supplies granted from the session-funds, and by the private charities of the people at large, are sufficient to preserve the poor from suffering much from want, and there is less danger of abuse, and of encouraging idleness. In populous cities, where the conditions of the poor cannot generally be so well known, and in countries in a very different situation, poor's rates are, no doubt, very proper and even necessary.

within these 40 years. A ploughman, or qualified man servant, will now have from 3*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* in the half year; a second rate servant, or a lad from 17 to 20 years of age, who can drive horses, from 2*l.* to 3*l.*; a woman servant about a farm house, 20*s.* for the half year; a man for the harvest 1*l.* 5*s.*; a woman for the same 16*s.*; a day labourer 9*d.* a day, or 6*d.* with his victuals, for 9 months in the year, and 5*d.* with 2 meals during the winter months. In harvest he will have 1*s.* a day, or 10*d.* and 2 meals; a woman has 3*d.* a day and victuals, and 7*d.* and 2 meals in harvest *.

Garmouth.—The only village that deserves notice is Garmouth, or, as it is commonly pronounced, Garmach. It is situated at the mouth of Spey; contains about 620 inhabitants; is a burgh of barony, and has an annual fair. The lands belonging to this place, extending to about 240 acres, with a right on an extensive common, are held by a considerable number of feuars of the Duke of Gordon. The feus are of different extent. Most of the feuars reside in Garmouth; possess their own feus, and live comfortably; and several, from success in various

* The wages of men servants for the half year, have risen above one third within these 7 years; and seem rather too high for this part of the country. It is also a pretty general complaint, that they do less work than when they had much less wages. To remedy this inconvenience, the best method seems to be, to employ married servants more than has been done in this part of the country for some time past, and to accommodate them, and day-labourers and tradesmen, with houses and other conveniences on the farms. This will encourage them to settle in the country. The greater farmers are beginning to see the convenience of having some married servants. As they cannot so easily remove their families, they are less given to change, and, by consequence, more studious to please. Their children, too, by encreasing the number, will lessen the wages of servants.

rious pursuits in life, are in opulent circumstances. The greater part of the houses in this place are of mud. The mud, when made into mortar, is well mixed with straw; and the more straw, it is thought the better. For about a foot from the foundation, they think it better to build stones with the mud. After this, the only precaution that seems necessary is to make a stop at every 2 or 3 feet more height, that the wall may dry, and become firm before they proceed further. These houses, if well thatched, are very dry, close, and comfortable, and last a very long time. They are sometimes built the height of 2 storeys. It adds to the look and durability, if the walls are harled with lime on the outside.

The river of Spey and Harbour.—The river Spey rises on the borders of Lochaber, and runs through Badenoch and Strathspey, until it comes within about 8 miles of the sea, nearly in the direction of N. E.; it then runs due N., and falls into the Murray Frith at Garmouth, after a course of about 85 miles. It is said to derive its name from a Pictish word, signifying *froth*, from the rapidity of its stream. It is the most rapid river in Scotland, and, except it be Tay, is the largest; and though it does not ordinarily appear so large as Tay, it is thought by some to run as much water in the year. Its fall from the Boat of Bog, nigh Gordon Castle, to the sea, the distance only of 3 miles, is 60 feet. Below this, it runs in a flat of about a mile in breadth, between the Bank of Bellie on the one side, and that of Speymouth on the other, which there is every appearance that it has formed*. From the great fall towards the
sea;

* The similar appearance of the rock and clay on both sides, being both of a red colour, naturally leads to the conclusion, that they were once joined,

sea, the tide does not flow above half a mile up the river. The ordinary depth of water on the bar at neap tides, is from 8 to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

The greatest inconvenience of the harbour is, that the stream, by its strength and rapidity, sometimes brings down in a flood such quantities of gravel as shift the channel a little, especially at the entrance of the harbour. But there are always good pilots at the place; and many vessels belonging to the English Company at Garmouth. Some of them of 350 tons burden, have been going and coming for these 7 years, without any particular detriment or inconvenience. There has never been any attempt to build a pier; and, from the above cause, it is to be feared that it would not succeed, or that the expense would exceed the value of the trade. The shore on both sides, all along the bay of Spey, is soft gravel, for 5 or 6 miles, excepting one rock, which runs out a little into the sea, about 3 miles W. from Spey, and is hidden at high water; so that a vessel will be in no great danger, if there be a necessity, in running ashore

joined, and that the river once run 50 feet above its present level, along the extensive plain which begins at Orton, about 8 miles from the sea, and runs nearly the whole length of the parish of Speymouth to the sea. The small stones and pebbles in this plain, which have the appearance of being rounded and smoothed by running water, and the bank behind which has the appearance of being formed by the same, seem to strengthen this conjecture. But at this time, far beyond all the historical records of the country, the appearance of the surface of the earth must have been very different from the present. The river, at present, runs straight into the sea. But there is a tradition, and indeed a plain evidence, from the appearance of the ground, that it has once taken a sudden turn within a few hundred yards of the sea, and run westward in a narrow cut of hollow ground, parallel to the shore, now called the Lin, and entered the sea about 3 miles to the W. of its present mouth, opposite to a hill yet called Spey's Law.

ashore at high water, within this space, keeping clear only of this one rock : and accordingly several have here run ashore without much damage.

Salmon Fishing on Spey.—The fish in Spey are, the salmon ; a trout, called here the white trout, of about 2 or 3 lb. weight, which comes in March, and continues for some months, and is very delicate : the grilse, which begins about the middle of June, and continues until the end of August ; this is here believed to be the young salmon : the finnic, which comes about the end of August, and continues to the end of October. There is also a small spotted trout found near the mouth of the river. All these afford excellent diversion to the angler. But the salmon is the chief object ; and of this there is a very valuable fishing on the river, and along the shore near it. This fishing, for the whole extent of this parish, and some distance above it, belongs to the Duke of Gordon, excepting 2-9ths of what is in this parish, which belong to the Earl of Murray. The fishing belonging to this parish extends for about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles up the river from the sea. Mr. Richardson of Perth, and Mr. Gordon of Portsoy, have it in lease. The fishing here begins on St. Andrew's day, and ends the 26th of August. There is seldom, however, any regular fishing, until about the beginning of February. Until about the beginning of May, the greatest part of the fish is sent fresh in ice to London. From that time, the greatest part is boiled, and sent to the same market. Very little is now salted for exportation, as there is a sufficient demand at the London market ; and the countries to which the salted salmon was formerly sent, are now supplied in a great measure from America. The price of salmon
at

at the river side is 4½d. the lb., which is thought very high. The sending of salmon fresh in ice to London, is but a late discovery, and adds greatly to the value of our salmon fishings, as the fish fetches a much higher price in this way than in any other. Mr. Richardson of Perth is said to have the merit of introducing this practice. The fishing is carried on with small boats, called Cobles, with 8 men and an overseer, here called a Kenner, to each. The crew is changed every 12 hours. Our fishers are reckoned uncommonly skilful in this business. This arises from the difficulties attending the fishing on Spey, from the rapidity of the river and other circumstances. The fishers have about 11. 15s. of fixed wages, each man, for the season. They have 6d. each, when they catch 6 fish or more within the 12 hours, and 3d. when they catch only 4.: when they catch beyond a certain number, they have a still farther allowance. In this way, they will make from 4l. to 6l. in a season. They have bread and beer, as much as is necessary, while they are working, and a bottle of spirits among the crew for the 12 hours they are employed*.

Wood-Trade.—At Garmouth, or the mouth of Spey, there is a wood-trade, the most considerable, it is supposed, of any in Scotland, for home wood. The wood is mostly fir, with some little oak and birch. It comes from the extensive forests in Strathspey and Badenoch, belonging to the Duke of Gordon, Sir James Grant of Grant,

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* The hardships which these people undergo, without any inconvenience, in wading in the water, often above the knee, during the winter and spring, and remaining in wet clothes perhaps for 12 hours, will appear almost incredible to those who have not witnessed it. Yet such is the wonderful effect of habit.

Mr. M'Intosh of M'Intosh, and Mr. Grant of Rothiemurchus; and is floated down the river Spey in deals, planks, logs, and spars. The medium prices of the best timber are as follows: Spar wood, from 16 to 24 feet long, and from 5 to 8 inches square, at 7d. to 8d. the solid foot; logs, in the round form, 10 to 20 feet long, and 12 to 18 inches diameter, at 1s. the solid foot; 3 inch plank, 12 feet long, and 10 inches broad, at 3s. the piece; 2 inch plank, 12 feet long, and 10 inches broad, at 2s. the piece; 1½ inch deals, 12 feet long, and 8 inches broad, at 1s. the piece; 1¼ inch deals, 10 feet long, at 10d. the piece; scantling, cut to any dimensions the timber will allow, at 1s. and 1s. 2d. the solid foot. The wood is partly sold at Garmouth, to the people of the adjacent country; but the greater part is carried coastwise by shipping. There are several persons engaged in this trade at Garmouth; but, for some years past, the greater part of it has been carried on by an English Company. Two capital wood merchants, Mr. Dodsworth of York, and Mr. Osbourne of Hull, about 8 years ago, purchased of the Duke of Gordon, the extensive forest of Glenmore, in Strathspey, about 50 miles from the sea; and since that time, they have carried on the trade with great spirit. They employ a great many hands, at the forest of Glenmore, in felling the trees, and manufacturing them into plank, deals, masts, &c., and in preparing the floats. The plank, deals, and masts are sent down the Spey in rafts, conducted by 2 men, at the rate of 3cs. the raft. The logs and spars are, for the most part, floated down the river loose, to the number, perhaps, of 20,000 pieces at a time, with men going along the side of the river with long poles, to push them on, as they stick on the banks. These men have 1s. 2d.

a day, besides whisky; and there will sometimes be from 50 to 80 employed at once in the floating. At Garmouth, this company has built 2 saw-mills, for manufacturing the timber after it comes down. The one is a windmill, and works from 36 to 40 saws. The other goes by water, and works from 30 to 36 saws. The wood belonging to this company is sent partly to Hull, and to the King's yards at Deptford and Woolwich, in their own shipping; but the most considerable part is sent coastwise, all along the N. coast, from Aberdeen to the Isle of Sky, or sold at Garmouth to the people of the country around, or employed in ship building. The greatest part of this wood is of the very best quality, equal, it is said by competent judges, to any that is imported from the Baltic, and inferior to that only in point of size. The largest masts are 60 feet in length. This company has built, since the 1786, besides a good number of boats, 23 vessels from 500 to 25 tons burden; the greater number about 200 tons, and amounting in all to about 4000 tons; and all of their own fir wood of Glenmore, both the plank and timbers. Some of these vessels they have sold; others they employ in their own trade from Spey, and in the Baltic trade, and one was bought for the trade to the Bay of Campeachy. These vessels, though wholly of fir, are thought by good judges to be equal to those of New-England oak, from the excellent quality of the fir. There are generally about 28 ship carpenters and blockmakers employed by this company at Garmouth; about 16 or 18 sawers; and 8 saw millers, besides several other workmen. They build vessels by contract. Besides the above vessels, built by the English company, several sloops have been built at Speymouth, during the same time, by others;

and several have been repaired; and from the satisfaction they give, it is expected the trade will continue and increase.

Exports and Imports at Speymouth.—The exports from Spey consist chiefly of wood and salmon; and there are generally 4 or 5 cargoes of grain or meal exported in a season, of 400 or 500 bolls each. The imports consist chiefly of coal, and this, for the greatest part, English coal, from Sunderland.

The exports and imports, from 1st October 1791 to 1st October 1792, were as follows:

Vessels sailed from Spey with wood in that time, from 350 to 20 tons burden, average 50 tons, for different places,	82
Touched at Spey, and took in salmon for London; having taken in part of the same at other ports,	24
With yarn,	1
With oats and meal,	2
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Sailed with cargoes,	109
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ARRIVED IN SPEY.

With coals,	11
With empty kils, staves, and hoops,	5
With salt 1; with iron and goods 6,	7
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Arrived with cargoes,	23

The average burden of these vessels will be 50 tons.

A Bridge on Spey at the Boat of Bog.—This is an object of the first importance to this parish, and to all the country,

country, to a considerable distance on both sides of Spey; and in regard to one common object, it may be stated as the most important improvement that could be made to all the extensive and populous counties W. and N. of Spey, as well as to the counties of Banff and Aberdeen to the S. and E. It is of importance in a publick view, as the judges must pass this way to and from the circuit at Inverness, and the troops to and from Fort George, Fort Augustus, and Fort William; and it is an object of importance to every traveller that visits this country. The road that passes the river Spey at the Boat of Bog in this parish, is, and from the situation of the country ever must be, the only great post road, and great line of communication from the S. to the counties of Elgin, Nairn, Inverness, Ross, Cromarty, Sutherland, Caithness, and Orkney. Spey can very seldom be forded with safety. The boat here is indeed good, and well served. But a passage by boat is inconvenient at the best; and when a river, so great and rapid as the Spey, is higher than ordinary, or, in a flood, as is oft-times the case, it must be highly inconvenient, and sometimes dangerous. When the importance of a bridge at this place to so considerable a part of the kingdom is considered, it must naturally excite surprise, that it has not long ago attracted effectually the attention of the publick. The internal improvements of a country claim the first care of the publick; and of these, roads and bridges, for facilitating communications, are held the most essential. If so, then, a bridge over the Spey, at the great post road, which is so important an object to the whole of the North of Scotland, has a high claim on the publick attention.

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There is nothing impracticable in the undertaking, if the publick will lend the suitable aid. An experienced architect, Mr. Stevens, who built the bridge at Dublin, and is now building that at Montrose, surveyed the river at that place 2 years ago, and found the work perfectly practicable, and that the rock, at the W. side of the river, run across the whole way, at a moderate depth below the bed of the river. The breadth of the river at that place is about 98 yards. This he proposed to cover with 3 arches. The expense he estimated at 14,000*l.* at the highest. No such sum as this, even for an object of the greatest utility, can be expected to be raised in the country, either by subscription, or by a toll, or by both. This could only be expected in the neighbourhood of a great town. It is only by the effectual aid of government, that a work of such magnitude can be undertaken in the country, and especially in such a distant part of the country as this. And to that effectual support, this work appears to have the justest claim, not only from its great utility to so considerable a part of the kingdom as above mentioned, but likewise for reasons in which government is more immediately concerned. At present, a flood in Spey may very materially affect the administration of justice, by stopping the judges in going on the circuit to Inverness, or in returning from thence to Aberdeen: Or the troops may, by the same cause, be retarded in their march to or from Fort George, or the other forts in the North, or from the country on the one side of the Spey to the other; and cases may occur, in which this may be of very bad consequence to the peace of the country, to the protection of the subjects, and to other purposes of good

good government. Hence may appear, the interest of government in this matter *.

Character

* If the sense of the country on this subject can be of avail in drawing the attention of government, this may be gathered from the most unequivocal expression of it lately given, and affords the strongest argument for the effectual interposition of government in this matter. Last year a subscription was set on foot by the Duke and Dutcheſs of Gordon, for building a bridge on Spey at the Boat of Bog, near Fochabers, and in a very short time upwards of 3000*l.* was subscribed in this neighbourhood, or by persons connected with it. A good deal more would have been subscribed; but as the subscription was undertaken in the confidence that government would give an effectual aid in seeing the sense of the country as to the utility of the work, so fully expressed, and as it was soon after found, that this expectation could not be realised at that time, from the breaking out of the war, as was said, the subscription was given up for the time, because of itself it would never be effectual. It seems there was the like flattering prospect of a bridge at this place before the American war; but that war, in like manner, banished it. It is hard that war should so materially affect the internal and essential improvements of a country. It is hoped, that such a small aid can still be spared for so useful and necessary a work. But if this cannot be otherwise granted, it might be done by means of a small temporary tax on the northern counties. It is presumed, that they would readily submit to some small additional burden for such a purpose; and it is supposed, that an additional duty on home spirits in these countries, would be the most proper in itself, the least felt, and the most readily agreed to. It has been proposed to build a bridge over Spey at the Boat of Brig, about 5 or 6 miles above the Boat of Bog. A bridge could be built there, it is said, at a much less expense, and would, no doubt, be very useful to that part of the country. But with regard to publick and general utility, it could never answer the purpose of a bridge at the Boat of Bog, or supersede the necessity of another there. The road which leads to the Boat of Brig from the S. and E., is often impassable, and always inconvenient during the winter, so that it is impossible that it can ever become the post road, or the great line of communication between the S. and N. On the other hand, the road which passes at the Boat of Bog, being the coast road, is always passable, and for this reason is, and ever must be the post road, and the great line of communication from S. to N. Nor from the situation of the ground does it appear possible to make a patent road between the two places on the S. side of Spey. However useful, then, a boat may be at Boat of Brig, it can never supply the place or supersede the necessity of one at the Boat of Bog. A bridge over the river Findhorn
also,

Character of the People, Mode of Living, Dress, &c.—

The people of this parish are, in general, honest, peaceable, and industrious; very charitable to the poor, and, in cases of distress, very much disposed to acts of humanity. They are generally rather above the middle size, active and hardy. Few go into the army. The greatest part apply themselves to husbandry, to the salmon fishing, or a seafaring life. The young men of the part of the parish next to the sea, and especially of the town of Garmouth, are much disposed to this last; and many of them go to sea, and become excellent seamen. There are about a dozen natives of this place who are now masters of vessels. The people seem to enjoy the comforts of society in the same degree, as those of their station throughout the kingdom in general, and are contented with their situation. The kindness and indulgence of their landlord, the Duke of Gordon, contributes in no small degree to their contentment, as well as comfort. The diet of the labouring people here, and in general, all through the Lowlands of the North of Scotland, is porridge, made of oat meal, with milk or beer, to breakfast; sowens, (that is, a kind of flummery, made of oat meal, somewhat soured), with milk or beer, to dinner; and kail, that is, greens or cabbage, boiled with oatmeal, to supper. With all these, they use bread of oat meal, or what is called household meal, that is, some mixture

also, where the post road passes it, would be extremely convenient and useful. But if one were built over Spey, that over Findhorn would follow of course. And if there were bridges over these two rivers at the places mentioned, there would not be one ferry to pass on all the great post road from Queensferry to the Ferry of Dornach in Sutherland; a circumstance which would be most conducive to the convenience and comfort of travellers, and to the commerce and prosperity of the country.

mixture of barley, rye, and pease. On Sundays, they have generally barley broth, with some meat in winter, and butter in summer. In places near the sea-coast, they have sometimes fish. Turnips are sometimes used in place of cabbage or greens; and potatoes dressed in different ways, with butter, milk, onions, &c., is commonly one-third part of their food from the beginning of September to the end of March. This is the general run of diet of the labouring people in this part of the country, that is, of lesser farmers, farmers servants, and people of that class; and all the above they have in sufficient plenty. The oat meal, which forms so considerable an article in the above, is of the very best quality throughout all Murray; and, notwithstanding the objections made against the use of oat meal by some, it is known to those who are best qualified to judge, to be, when properly dressed, one of the most wholesome and nourishing articles of food. The cottagers and poorer sort of the people have not always what is called kitchen, that is, milk or beer, to their meals. In the view of patriotism and humanity, it is a pity that the article of beer cannot be rendered more attainable by the poorer sort of people. This might be effected, at least in some measure, by lowering the duty on malt, and imposing it on spirits; and this would have the double happy effect of affording to the poor a comfortable and strengthening beverage, and checking the use of that which is noxious. Such a measure deserves the attention of those who are able to carry it into effect.

The better sort here, as elsewhere throughout the N., use cloth from England or the southern parts of Scotland; and many of the farmers, and tradesmen, and some even of the servants, use the same on Sundays, and on

occasions when they are in drefs. But the common farmers, and the poorer sort of the people, use cloth made at home. In this parish, most of the common tenants have as many sheep as supply wool for their own and their childrens clothing. This is spun in their families, and manufactured and dyed in their neighbourhood. Almost all raise as much flax likewise as supplies their families with shirts, &c, which they spin also in their houses. The industry of the women in spinning is very commendable. In many families they make a little of woollen and lincn cloth, especially the latter, for sale; and the poorer women spin a good deal of lincn yarn for sale. The bonnet is still commonly used by the men. A watch is no uncommon thing among the servants.

Miscellaneous Observations.—It would add greatly to the value, as well as to the appearance of the country, if part of the moor-grounds were brought into cultivation, and part planted. Some parts of the moor in this parish might be cultivated to advantage with the aid of lime. In other parts, clumps or pieces of plantation, properly disposed, would be a great improvement. Extensive plantations have been made on the W. side of this parish, by the Duke of Gordon and the Earl of Fife, which are already a great ornament, and will soon be of great use to the country. There is no doubt that the plantations will soon be continued on each side of the highway all along to Spey. As our mosses are nearly exhausted, it is of great importance to extend plantations for a supply of fuel. Firs, and some other kinds of wood, grow on our hardest soil to the sea side.—The *pilularia*, or, pepper grass, is the only uncommon botanical

tanical plant that has been observed here. It is found in some low damp places in the moor, that have been under water in the winter.—The common fuel through the greatest part of the parish is moory turf. In Carmouth, and near the sea, they use coals, the greatest part from Sunderland. Since the duty has happily been taken off, they have sold at from 22d. to 2s. the barrel; which should be equal to 3 Winchester bushels heaped. There is some moor stone in the upper part of the parish, which is used in building. The stone that is principally used, is taken out of a rock that runs along the Spey for about a mile, where the post-road passes. It is of a red colour, and is altogether of the nature of lime-stone. It becomes harder according to its depth; and it is only what is at some depth, that is hard and durable enough to be fit for building. Towards the top, it is soft, and of a marly nature; some parts of it pretty rich, and when exposed to the air and weather, it dissolves. The clay that is mixed with this rock, or between the different strata of it, is also of a red colour; and in many parts, of a marly nature, and of considerable strength. Both the soft stone and the clay are laid on the lands, by those in the immediate neighbourhood, to great advantage. But the quantity necessary to produce any considerable effect, has hitherto prevented those who are at the distance of a mile, from using it. It seems, however, to be worth the trouble; and it is probable, it will be more used as its value is known. The great post road enters this parish at the Boat of Bog, and passes through the middle of it to Elgin. The fare for the passage here over the Spey is for a single person $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; for a man and horse 2d.; for a chaise and pair 2s. 6d.; for a horse and cart 2d., &c. When the

river is in a flood; the fare is raised. There is another ferry at the mouth of Spey. Another road leads from Garmouth, or the mouth of Spey, along or near the side of the river to Rothes and the Highlands.* A third road leads from the same place to Elgin. All these roads are in pretty good condition. Like the other roads in Murray, they are, from the lightness of the soil, and the dryness of the climate, easily kept in tolerable repair. Turnpikes would not suit the state of this country, nor would they, it is believed, be at all relished. The expense would be too great for the general condition of the people. It would be better to convert the statute-labour into money, at a low rate. There is reason to think, that 1s. 6d. for every man for the year, would, if properly applied, go farther in keeping the roads in repair, than the statute-labour itself, as at present exacted.

This parish has the honour of a connexion with the celebrated family of Chatham, which, though somewhat distant, is not to be omitted*. Jane Innes, wife to Governor Pitt, and great grandmother to the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, was daughter to James Innes, Esq. of Redhall, a place within a few hundred yards of the present church of Speymouth, on the bank of Spey, immediately opposite to Gordon Castle. The family of Redhall was a branch of the family of the Inneses, Baronets, of Coxtoun.—From the situation of this parish on the river Spey, it has been the scene of some actions of fame in our history†.

There

* Vide Edmondson's Peerage, Family of Chatham; and the fact is known in this country.

† Near the mouth of this river the rebels of Murray, Ross, and Caithness, made a stand in the year 1078, to oppose the passage of King Malcolm III.

with

There are no remains of antiquity within the parish that deserve notice. The language here spoken is the English;

with his army over the Spey, and here they made their submission at the intercession of the priests, and on seeing the resolution of the Royal army, in attempting and passing through the river.—(*Buchanan.*)

Another arm, of rebels, in the year 1110, halted at the mouth of Spey, with a determination to dispute the passage of King Alexander I., who was pursuing them. The king forced the passage, and ordered Alexander Scrimger to attack the enemy with a part of his army, who routed them, and put them to flight.—(*Ibid.*)

In the year 1160, near the mouth of the same river, and on the moor between Speymouth and Urquhart, as is supposed, a rebellion of a still more serious aspect was quelled, by a victory gained by Malcolm IV. over the people of Murray, when the whole army of the rebels was cut to pieces, after which the chief families of the province, and all who were concerned in the rebellion, (as being, according to Buchanan, “a people of a turbulent disposition,”) were removed and dispersed through other parts of the kingdom; and others from different parts were transplanted into Murray in their room.—(*Ibid.*) King Charles II landed at Speymouth from Holland in the year 1650. Some say, he arrived first at Cromarty. It is certain, however, he came by sea to Spey, as the descendants of a man of the name of Milne, who carried his Majesty on shore, are still in Garmouth, and are distinguished from others of that name, in the same place, by the name of King Milnes, from that circumstance. He was here received by the Laird of Innes, and other gentlemen, and dined with the factor of Lord Dumfermling, who lived in Garmouth, in a house which was only lately taken down; and here it probably was, that he was made to sign the covenant. In spring 1746, the rebels, on their return from the S., collected in great numbers on the banks of Spey, and the manse of Speymouth became, for some time, according to an account left by the minister of that period, their head quarters on Spey; and several of their principal officers, as Lord John Drummond, the Duke of Perth, Lords Kilmarnock, Balmerinoch, Secretary Murray, put up in it, and many others frequented it. This, the minister observes, was expensive to him, but they used him very civilly, and gave him no disturbance in point of principle; only there was no public worship during their stay. It appears from this, as well as from what they themselves gave out at the time, that they meant to have made a stand at Spey against the King's army; and this the Duke of Cumberland expected. And there is no doubt, that it was the place for them to have taken their strength; but a want of

English, if the broad Scotch that is spoken throughout the greatest part of Murray, Banff, and Aberdeenshires, be thought entitled to that name. Erse is not the common language within 20 miles of us. Formerly there was a good deal of smuggling carried on, on this coast ; but, by the late regulations, that is now in a great measure suppressed. By the same means, the private distilling of whisky, which was formerly pretty generally carried on in this quarter, is now almost entirely brought to an end ; and in consequence of both these, the use of spirituous liquors is greatly and happily lessened.

of concert among their chiefs, and of subordination among the men, prevented this, and they went off in great haste on the approach of the King's army. On the 12th of April, the Duke of Cumberland, with his army, passed the Spey, at a ford directly opposite to the church of Speymouth, with the loss only of one man, and encamped between the river and the church, and slept himself that night at the manse ; and on the 16th, the battle of Culoden was fought ; and thereby an end was happily put to the Rebellion.

N U M B E R

N U M B E R XXIII.

PARISH OF CANOBY.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF
LANGHOLM.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN RUSSEL.

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

THE ancient priory in this place seems to have given name to the parish; Canoby being most probably derived from the Latin *canobium*, which signifies, a priory or monastery, and comes from the Greek *κοινος*, common, and *βίος*, life; in allusion to the monks living in common. This idea is considerably strengthened from the circumstance, that a piece of land, granted by donation to this priory, and specially * designed in a charter confirmed by King William the Lion in 1165, is to this day called Canoby-holm, to wit, the Priory-Holm, in distinction from Bee-holm, Knotty-holm,

* Ex dono Guido de Rossedale, assensu et consensu Rodolphi filii sui, quadraginta duas acras inter Esch et Lidle, ubi Esch et Lidle conveniunt, &c.

holm, &c., in the immediate neighbourhood. And even the inhabitants, who reside in other parts of the parish, continue to call the situation in the vicinity of the church, more properly, Canoby. This parish extends from E. to W. about 9 miles, and from N. to S. above 6 miles, English measure.

Canoby may be considered as the low-lands of Eskdale; for the highest grounds, which rise gradually towards the E. and N. E., cannot be called mountains, when contrasted with the general appearance of the conterminous parishes of Langholm, Ewes, and Castleton, and the country of Eskdale, at large. At the same time, although there are no hills in Canoby, the surface is uneven, and diversified by a variety of ridges and flats, excepting the land situated on the banks of the river, which is generally level. The central part of the parish is intersected by the river Esk; and the post road from Edinburgh to London, by Langholm and Carlisle, passing in the same direction, through a line of venerable oaks, planted by the hand of Nature; and other trees, of different descriptions, holds up in varied succession to the view of travellers, the most beautiful and picturesque rural scenery, that is perhaps to be met with any where in Scotland.

Soil. —The soil, in this tract, being what is called Holm-land, is mostly light loam; and being sheltered to the E. and W. by a profusion of wood on the sloping grounds on each side of the river, the whole length of the parish, from N. to S., affords productive and early crops, when under proper cultivation. On the banks of Liddel, which divides the parish from England, for the space of 4 miles to the S. E., the soil is much of the same

same quality with that on Esk. In other parts, where the ground is more elevated, it consists of a mixture of moss and clay, which, when limed, yields abundant crops of oats in dry seasons, such as the last; but on account of its wetness, which certainly admits of a remedy, is found unfit for the culture of barley and potatoes; at least these crops are more precarious.

Woods and Orchards.—This parish abounds in woods. The number of acres thus occupied cannot be less than 1000. In the time of the minority of the present Duke of Buccleugh, who is sole proprietor of the parish, the wood was all natural; but having suffered much by depredation, as the writer is informed, that loss has been since fully repaired, by the numerous plantations made in different situations, by his Grace's order. And the woods now placed, under the inspection of faithful and skilful overseers, are in the best state and preservation. The oak reigns here over his subjects of the wood, of all denominations, from the creeping ivy to the tallest ash. In the new plantations, plains, beeches, elms, firs of every description, poplars, &c. are making rapid progress, being properly fenced, and seasonably pruned. A limited quantity of oak is cut down every year; which furnishes bark to the tanner, and timber to the tenant. A variety of orchards have been planted at his Grace's expense, within these 7 or 8 years, upon such farms as were thought most favourably situated for that purpose; and they promise well, for the time. But there are only 4 of older standing, that are as yet productive, viz. at Forge, Woodhouselee, Rowanburn, and the minister's, which, in kindly seasons, yield a good deal of fruit, of the best quality.

Rivers and Fish.—The rivers **Es**k and **Liddel** hold the first rank ; the former rising in the highest part of the parish of **Es**kdalemoor, and the latter in the upper extremity of **Liddesdale**, or parish of **Castleton**. Both, after collecting in their different courses of nearly the same extent of 23 or 24 miles, a great number of tributary streams, meet at the southmost part of this parish ; when the **Liddel** loses at once its name and waters in the **Es**k ; which, after running from the point of confluence about 7 miles, in a S. W. direction, discharges its united streams into the **Solway Frith**. The smaller river of **Tarras**, having its source in the parish of **Ewes**, and separating, on the N. E. quarter, this parish from that of **Langholm**, is remarkable for its prærupt channel, romantic scenery, and giving title of **Earl** to **Walter Scott** of **Highcheffer**, who married **Lady Mary**, eldest daughter of **Francis Earl** of **Buccleugh**. The patent bears date the 4th September 1660. There are besides, many burns or rivulets, which, in rainy seasons, swell to a great size, but which, otherwise, do not merit particular attention. From the end of June, till close-time, there is abundance of fish, after floods *, in **Es**k, and the lower end of **Liddel** ; such as salmon, grilse, sea trout, and whitens, as they are named here, or herlings, as they are called in **Annandale** ; and the common river trouts are found in great plenty in all the rivers and rivulets in the parish. They are all excellent in their kinds ; but the **Es**k trouts and whitens, in particular, are, for their delicate flavour, highly prized.

His

* A barricade of hewn stone made across the river, about 2 miles below, by the late **Dr. Grahame** of **Netherby**, for the purpose of supplying his mills with water, v.ry much intercepts the run of the fish ; and it is only in time of flood they can easily make their way up the river.

His Grace has complimented certain of his tenants with so much of the water as borders upon their farms ; the fish therefore is seldom brought to market, being chiefly used in their families. They are caught by the long net, the rake net, the rod, and sometimes killed, or rather murdered, by an instrument called a Lifter *.

Mineral Springs.—There are the appearances of several chalybeate springs scattered throughout the parish ; but the only mineral well in this neighbourhood, resorted to for medicinal purposes, is that at Heathet, which lies on the English side of Liddel. It is used chiefly in the case of scorbutic disorders, and stomachic complaints. There is a petrifying spring near the river of Tarras in this parish, the only one that is known in the whole country. Mr. Keir, of Langholm parish, who will be more particularly mentioned afterwards, collected the petrifications of fog, &c., formed along the course of the stream, to the amount of several cart loads, which he burnt after the manner of lime stone, and found it to be excellent manure.

Climate and Diseases.—The inhabitants of this parish cannot boast of a dry atmosphere ; but although there be a considerable proportion of rain and moisture in this place throughout the year, the climate is by no means unfavourable for the purposes either of health or vegetation. Of the former, the number of long-lived persons,

3 F 2

sons,

* The lifter is a shaft, with 3 iron prongs barbed on one side, fixed on the end, not unlike the figure of Neptune's trident. With this the fish are struck, both when stationary, and running in shallow water ; and the remarkable clearness of the water of Esk facilitates the execution of the bloody deed.

sons, of both sexes, is a proof; and the latter is confirmed by the early progress, and superior quality of vegetable productions, beyond any other parish in the district. The climate, however, is very different, in different situations. In the whole tract of the Esk, which is sheltered on all hands, the air is generally mild and temperate, even in cold seasons; while it is sharp and piercing, within the distance of a mile or two from that situation. The diseases incident to this parish are, rheumatism, and those of the nervous kind; which may be induced by the humidity of the air, and coarse manner of living; as the poorer class of the inhabitants are most commonly affected with such disorders. I am sorry that a regard to truth obliges me to mention another disease, namely, scrofula. Whether this direful malady be indigenous, or was at first introduced by intermarriages, is not for the writer to determine. But it falls under his observation, that numbers in this place are more or less infected with it. And as it is an established fact, that it may be propagated through a series of generations, much caution ought to be used in forming matrimonial connexions, as the only effectual way of preventing the entail of this malignant disorder upon posterity; thus lightening so far the load of human woe. —The prejudices of the people against inoculation are not yet entirely removed, although many fatal instances have occurred, and are, at this very season, daily presented to their view; which, while they speak to their feelings, ought also to enlighten their understandings. The natural small pox has raged here for some time past, with destructive violence, and swept off multitudes; while scarcely an individual has suffered, that underwent the process of inoculation.

Migratory Birds.—The curlew appears in the higher situations, bordering upon Castleton and Ewes; and also the plover, dotterel, and fieldfare. In the more inland parts, the woodcock, bullfinch, swallows of the different species, and cuckoo, fix their temporary settlements.

Game.—The black cock haunts the woods upon Tarras: moorfowl are found in some situations upon the skirts of the parish; partridge, in many places; and hares every where, in great abundance. The Duke of Buccleugh, some years ago, sent out a breed of pheasants to stock his woods in Eskdale; and they frequently make their appearance in Canoby.

Roads and Bridges.—In no situation, within the writer's knowledge, have greater or more rapid improvements been made in these two articles, so essential to civilization, and the exertion of industry in every sphere, than in this parish. About 20 years ago, every situation out of the line of the river Esk, excepting in a very dry summer, was almost inaccessible. Since that period, leading roads have been made on the E. and W. side of the parish, and branches carried from these to almost every farm; and, in a little time, will be extended to all without exception; so that the various purposes of agriculture or commerce can now with ease and comfort be fully served: The effect which this happy change has produced on both, will be mentioned in the proper place. For making and keeping these roads in repair, his Grace has appropriated 5 *per cent.* out of the whole land-rent of the parish, and has hitherto given 5*l.* a-year, out of his own pocket, in addition. A
halfpenny

halfpenny is also levied at the coal pits, upon every horse load of coals, equal to 2d. the cart load, besides the conversion of the statute-labour, which had been found altogether inadequate to the purpose. These funds, in the aggregate, may amount from 300l. to 400l. a-year. There is a toll-bar in the parish, placed exactly upon the side of Scotch dike, the ancient, as well as present march between Scotland and England; the produce of which is applied entirely toward the repair of the post road. There are about 10 bridges, with 1 arch, over different rivulets, and numberless smaller ones, in the parish; besides 2 over the Esk, the one having 3 arches, and the other 2. The former, distant $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the latter, was built about 50 years ago, at the expense of the county, from motives of humanity; at least, it does not appear that there could, at that time, be any other object in view of general concern. The parishioners, to the W. of the river, who are numerous, had no access to the church, or to the E. side, before this bridge was built, but by wading or riding the river, or passing in a boat, when it ceased, from flood, to be otherwise fordable. And the boat having been upset at one time, and many persons drowned, in returning from church, and many individuals having lost their lives, after this event, the idea of building a bridge, that had been long suggested, was at length happily realized.

The other bridge was only finished last summer. It is built upon a large scale, and has a striking appearance; to which its romantic situation very much contributes. The span of the large arch is 70 feet, that of the smaller one 45 feet; the height of the bridge to the pass-way 46 feet, and its length 244 feet. By this bridge,

bridge, a communication is opened up of great utility to the country ; as, shortening the road several miles in going and returning from his Grace's colliery at Byreburnfoot ; a new direction is given to the post road for the space of $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile ; by which means a long pull, from N. to S. on the old road, is superseded ; the chilling blasts in winter on this part avoided, being the most exposed situation on the road between Langholm and Longtown ; and new romantic scenes disclosed to the view of the traveller, that mock all description. The road leading from the E. end of the new, towards the old bridge, is cut along the side of a steep bank covered with wood, forming an amphitheatre ; at the S. end of which another bridge, with 2 arches, is to be built the ensuing summer. When the operations now carrying on in this quarter, and further intended, are completed, which it is expected will be the case before Martinmas next, the new line of road, for boldness of design, and difficulty of execution, must astonish every passenger. All these works are done at the Duke's private expense, and must cost several thousand pounds.

Mines.—There are 2 collieries in Canoby ; one at Archerbeck, let to an English gentleman of the name of Lomax, wrought by an open level ; the other at Byreburnfoot, in the possession of his Grace, to whose public spirit the country is much indebted upon that head*.

The

* In the year 1770 or 1771, the whole coal mines and lime stone quarries in this parish, were let to the same person, upon a very long lease ; one of the conditions of which was, according to information, that a supply of coal, equal to the demand of the country, should be readily afforded at all times. The tacksmen, to avoid the great expense of an engine, confined his operations to those places where coal could be wrought by means of an open level. Hence the quantity of coal got in this man-

The coal here is wrought by a water engine upon a new construction, the invention of Mr. Keir of Millholm. It is moved by means of a large bucket, of a square form, suspended from the end of a lever, having a valve at bottom in the centre, which, by machinery, is made to shut and open in the instant of time the bucket should fill and empty itself. The other end of the lever is fixed to the pump, spear, or rod; and by the continued action of the bucket descending and ascending, filling and emptying the water it contains, which is of such weight as to make the beam preponderate, the pumping is carried on, and the coal pit cleared of the water collected below. As the principle upon which the engine is constructed, is known only to the ingenious inventor, who, it is reported, means to take out a patent, a more particular description shall not be attempted. The annual produce of the coal mines cannot, at present, be ascertained; but the writer is authorized to state, that a supply can be afforded equal to any possible demand.

Lime Stone and Free Stone.—Lime stone is found in great abundance in many parts of the parish, particularly on the E. side of Esk; but that which is wrought at Harelawhill, is in greatest request, as yielding the purest lime. It is also remarkable for its whiteness, as well as

the
ner, was only partial; and many, in distant parts of the country, who had no other resource, were often reduced to the greatest distress. In these circumstances, the Duke, although the tacksmen might have been compelled to implement the terms of his lease, was pleased to enter into an agreement with him, by which his Grace was to be at liberty to set up a colliery in any situation that did not directly interfere with Mr. Lomax's levels; and very considerable sums of money have been expended by his Grace, in bringing those works to bear, which at length afford to the public the happy prospect of a prompt and ample supply of this necessary article of life.

the quantity of powder from the bushel of shells. And what is of great importance, the quarries in this quarter are easily wrought, and seem inexhaustible. It has been mentioned above, that the lime-stone was let alongst with the coal : The tacksmen is bound to furnish lime in shells at 7d. the bushel ; three of which commonly fill a single horse cart. From the lime kilns at Holhouse and Harelawhill, the whole country is supplied, to the distance of 30 miles. The parish every where abounds in free-stone of various kinds, which is constantly used in building. A circumstance of a singular nature may be here noted ; that within the space of 200 yards, in one particular spot, coal and peat, lime-stone and free-stone, may be digged.

State of Agriculture.—It does not appear that agriculture had been prosecuted on this part of the border either with skill or industry in former periods. The late Dr. Grahame of Netherby, a gentleman of extensive views, and uncommon enterprise, had the merit of rescuing the English borderers, in this neighbourhood, from a state of idleness and dissipation, to which they had been habituated, by pointing and enforcing their attention to pursuits of industry. And he lived to see his endeavours crowned with signal success ; having improved his estate from 2500l. a-year, the rental when he came to the succession in 1753, which, at the same time, was seldom paid up, to 8000l., the rental at his death in 1781, which was well paid ; while the tenants lived more comfortably and respectably than formerly, when they paid little more than a quit-rent.

The habits and circumstances of the people in this parish, were much a-kin to those on the English side of the border, when the present Duke of Buccleugh came of age.

And it did not escape his Grace's observation, that **this** part of his estate was also capable of great improvement ; possessing the advantages of surface, and climate, and coal, and lime. A gentleman of distinguished talents and activity was at length found to direct and superintend improvements upon the estate in this country, Mr. Keir above mentioned ; whose chief attention came naturally to be turned to Canoby, as the parish in the district most capable of agricultural improvement. In pursuance of **this** view, roads were made ; farms laid out where the plough had never before entered ; commodious houses and offices built and slated at his Grace's expense, for the encouragement of the tenants ; the ground divided into enclosures with hedge and ditch ; and leases given at a moderate rate. The consequence now is, that luxuriant crops of corn are reaped, where heath, and bent, and moss, had predominated, perhaps, since the deluge ; population increased ; the spirit of industry roused ; the face of the parish beautified ; and the inhabitants, in point of civilization, proportionably improved.

Wheat is cultivated with success, on the land situated on the banks of the river, as well as every other species of grain ; and the soil in this direction is well adapted for turnips and potatoes, both which are raised in great perfection ; although the turnip system is not so much followed here as in some other places, less favourable, perhaps, for their production. In the larger farms, the usual routine of cropping is observed, viz. two crops of oats after grass ; then pease or turnips ; then barley with clover and ryegrass. Wheat is generally sown after potatoes ; the increase of which is seldom less than from 10 to 14 after one ; of oats, from 6 to 14 ; of barley, from 8 even to 30 ; of potatoes, from 14 to 40, and upwards.

Seed-Time and Harvest.—Wheat is sown from the end of October to the middle of November: oats, pease, and beans (the two last are not much cultivated), from the beginning to the end of April: barley, potatoes, and lintseed in small quantities, for private use, from the end of April to the 25th of May: turnip from the middle to the end of June. The beginning and end of harvest varies, according to the seasons and situations within the parish. Oats of the early kind sown here, on the 7th of April, have been cut down the first week of August. But, in general, the harvest does not commence before the end of August, nor is concluded before the end of October. The lateness is owing to the wetness and coldness of the soil in the higher situations, and perhaps also to the custom of sowing later than in other parts of the country.

The crops are cut down with the common sickle, the farm of Woodhouselee excepted. Mr. Bell, the tenant, has for many years past used the scythe, fitted up for the purpose. By which mode, he has found from experience, that much grain and fodder are saved. He affirms, that two mowers, and three attendants for collecting and sheaving the corn thus cut, will do more work, and to better purpose, than double that number in the other way. This gentleman possesses one of the principal farms in the parish; which, by his superior skill and unremitting attention to all the operations of farming, he has brought from the worst to the highest state of improvement. Mr. Bell has the merit of having first introduced into this parish the improvement of land by turnip and clover; of both which he raises the best crops in the country.

Of late years, the tenants who possess the best lands, have been laying down their fields into grass, upon the

feeding plan; which they stock with draft ewes *, commonly of the Cheviot breed, about the end of September or beginning of October, with an adequate proportion of tups. The ewes of this description are bought, upon an average, at 8s. 6d. each; and the ewe and lamb are sold off the pasturage here, without the fleece, which may fetch from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d., from 1l. to 1l. 2s. 6d.. A certain number of black cattle are fed upon the same pasturage, and turn to good account.

There are three or four small sheep farms, upon the extremity of the parish, in the N. W. and N. E. quarters; but after the details from the other parishes of the district, which are almost wholly in the pastoral line, it is only necessary just to mention them.

Antiquities.—The inhabitants of this parish, being more immediately exposed to the marauding incursions of the English borderers in the days of yore; which visits, perhaps, they had reason to expect, upon the principle of retaliation, had not been inattentive to the means of defence. Many vestiges of strong holds can be traced within the parish; although there is only one, near the new bridge, already described, that makes an appearance at this period, its walls being yet entire. John Armstrong, a famous border chieftain in the reign of James V., styled John of Gill-knocky, most likely had his residence here †.

The

* The oldest ewes, drafted from the flocks in Highland situations, which are presumed to be in a hazardous state, if continued longer on their old pasture; but thrive well, when brought upon better pasture, in the lower country.

† The spot of ground to which the E. end of the above bridge is joined, is, indeed, called to this day Gill-knocky; but it does not exhibit the

The remains of a Roman station appear about 3 quarters of a mile to the E. of Gill-knocky, on the rising ground; being the first of the chain that runs through Eskdale, the length of Castle-Over, or the upper camp, in Eskdalemuir; all dependent upon the principal station on the estate of Netherby, so called from being the nether station; and which, at this time, bears the name of the Moat, situated on the S. side of Liddel where it runs into the Esk. A variety of Roman coins, and stones with Roman inscriptions, have from time to time been dug up in that neighbourhood, and are in the possession of Sir James Grahame

the smallest vestige of mason work, and therefore could not have been the site of that chieftain's castle, which, from the name, has been commonly supposed. It has, however, the appearance of having been a temporary station, to which the inhabitants might have fled with their most valuable effects, when any invasion was apprehended, which otherwise they were unable to repel. It is in the form of a promontory, giving a curve to the river Esk, which washes its three unequal sides; and being steep and rocky, is scarcely accessible but on the land side, which has been fenced by a deep fosse; over which, very probably, a draw bridge had been thrown. It may not be inconsistent with this part of our investigation, to observe, that John Armstrong is the only character of note, in later or more remote periods of antiquity, connected with this parish, whose memory has been preserved. He was the terror of the W. marches of England; having forced the inhabitants of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and a great part of Northumberland, to become his tributaries, or to pay him *blackmail*; that is, a sum of money annually, to be exempted from his depredations. At length, his power having grown too great for a subject, he became an object of jealousy to the king; who levied an army for the avowed purpose of punishing Gill-knocky and his followers, and marched at their head to the parish of Ewes. There, John was summoned to attend the king, upon the promise of his security; and having accordingly obeyed the summons, in violation of the public faith, pledged for his personal safety, as observed by Buchanan, he and his attendants were hanged at Carlenrick-rigg, two miles to the N. of Moss-paul, on the road between Hawick and Langholm.

Grahame of Netherby ; an account of which will be given in the History of the Antiquities of Cumberland, now in the press. From this camp, a Roman road can be traced through the E. side of this parish, crossing Tarras, and entering the parish of Langholm on the estate of Broomholm ; from thence leading up Eskdale to the different stations in that quarter.

Priory.—That this religious establishment existed before the year 1165, the date of the charter, mentioned in the note, p. 407, demonstrates : but how long before that period, the writer has not been able to investigate. Some ruins of the convent are still to be seen at Halgreen, perhaps rather Haly or Holygreen, about half a mile to the E. of the church. From Halgreen, a private road to the church is yet kept open through enclosed fields, sanctioned by use and wont. The church and convent are said to have been demolished by the English, after the battle of Solwaymoss, about the end of the reign of James V. ; which is not improbable, as the reason assigned in King Henry's manifesto, for committing hostilities upon the Scottish borders, not long before that event, was a pretended claim to the parish of Canoby, as part of the English territory *. This serves to account for the outrage
above

* *Quam enim cupide id bellum suscepit Anglus, ipsius edictum non multo post vulgatum demonstrat. Ait enim, Prædarios Beruici licentia verborum apud Scotos jactorum irritatos fuisse. Verum ipsa verba in edicto inserta nullam contumeliam habent. Hæc causa cum ne ipsi quidem satis justa videretur, Canoben viculum ignobilem, cum paupere canobio, ad limitem situm, de quo nulla unquam controversia fuit, tanquam sui juris repetunt. BUCHANAN, l. 14. cap. 44.*

The historian's object at the time, was to show the frivolous pretext of the King of England for breaking the truce. It is not, therefore, to be expected that he was to mention the subject of claim, in the most respectable

above mentioned. Part of the old wall of the church still remains, to which the modern building is united ; and in which is preserved a small arch, marking, perhaps, the place of sepulchre of some prior, or person of distinction ; which, from the style of the sculpture, bears testimony to its antiquity. The only other relique is the chrismatory, dug up in the church-yard some years ago, which is now in the writer's possession ; and is a piece of very grotesque sculpture.

Population.—The account transmitted to Dr. Webster in 1755, fixed the population of this parish to the number of 1733 souls. At present, in the beginning of 1794, it reaches to 2725 souls. The following table will exhibit the number of males and females, from the age of 40 to 100.

	From 40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.
Males,	103	68	60	39	15	1
Females,	102	89	47	30	16	1

Several natives, upon the borders of 100 years of age, died within these few years ; and one at the age of 103 years and 8 months, viz. Alexander Ewart, who walked about, and retained all his faculties till near the time of his death.

BIRTHS.

respectable terms. The following extract, communicated to the writer by the ingenious Captain Hutton, who has devoted much of his time to researches of this nature, will show, that this priory was not so meanly endowed as Buchanan would insinuate ; and this extract contains but part of its funds :—Ex dono Turg. de Rossedale domum religiosam de Lidle cum tota terra ei adjacente ; ecclesiamque de Kirk Andrews cum omnibus ad illam pertinentibus. Ex dono Guido de Rossedale, according to the note on p. 407., with this addition, cum libertate, aquæ de Lidle, simery, a fossa, Moat ut supra, usque ad ecclesiam de Lidle. Ex dono Ranulphi de Sci ecclesiam de valle Lidle, Castleton church, et ecclesiam de Dodington juxta Bertonam.—These grants are confirmed in one charter, in 1165.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, and MARRIAGES, for the last 8 Years.

	BIRTHS.	BURIALS.	MARRIAGES.
1786,	82	16	12
1787,	77	20	18
1788,	105	28	16
1789,	86	23	14
1790,	77	29	13
1791,	64	31	16
1792,	63	27	18
1793,	64	28	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total,	618	202	130

N. B. There are 20 widowers and 54 widows; batchelors, or such as live single in their own houses, do not exceed 6. The taste for matrimony univerfally prevails here.

Divifion of Inhabitants, Occupations, &c.—Of the inhabitants, 201 are enrolled upon his Grace's rental-book as tenants, poffeffing land. The farms are generally fmall, at an average about 15l. a-year. The rent of fome is fo low as 2l. or lefs; and of others as high as 80l., 120l., and even near to 300l.

The reft of the inhabitants that are come to maturity, confift of artificers, labourers, and work fervants. The ftate of the firft clafs is as follows, viz. weavers, 40; one ftocking weaver; mafons, 14; wrights, 16; blackfmiths, 8; tailors, 10; shoemakers, 4; coopers, 6; clogmakers, 3; wheelwright, 1; bakers, 4; ale and fpirit venders, 9; fhopkeepers, 4; and furgeons, 2. Of labourers, including coal miners, 98; male fervants, 54; female, 62. Of the defcription of gentry, there are only 4 or 5 families.

Many

Many have fixed their residence here, who are not natives; several of whom are from England.

Inhabited Houses, Number of Acres, Stock, &c.—There are about 512 houses inhabited, containing, at an average, somewhat more than 5 inhabitants each. None are uninhabited. Within these 20 years, 180 new dwelling houses, at least, have been reared; 53 of which are covered with blue slates; besides office houses, which are also generally slated.

The parish has been measured, and contains 22,500 and odd acres; of this number, perhaps 15,000 or 16,000 acres are arable, or may be made capable of tillage; but as yet not more than 9000 or 10,000 are in the way of being under the operation of the plough: although it is to be hoped, from the progressing state of improvement in this parish, that the whole of the improvable ground will, in due time, be made to change its natural state. All the land is occupied in crop, pasture, or wood; and the greatest part is enclosed and fenced by hedges, or stone walls, the advantages of which are fully recognised. As the whole farms in the parish have been let upon a plan of improvement, and therefore upon very reasonable terms, the present land rent, as estimated by the ratio of poor's rates, does not much exceed 3000*l*. What revenue may arise from the coal and lime works, or the sale of oak bark and wood, cannot be accurately stated.

The number of horses in the parish is about 407; of black cattle 1516; of sheep, it is supposed, between 2000 and 3000; and of swine 259. The writer has been informed, that, about 60 years ago, there were only 2 carts in the parish: at present, there are 217; 2 waggons, and

1 four-wheeled carriage. The ploughs in use here are of the English construction, and in number 208.

The victual produced in the parish is not, at this time, equal to the consumption. The best land, as was before observed, is laid down in grass; which circumstance, as well as the extent of population, number of horses and swine to be fed from the less productive ground, will account for this deficiency.

Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.—There are between 30 and 40 Seceders, chiefly of the sect of Burghers; the rest adhere to the Established Church.—The living, as settled by a decret of modification obtained last summer, consists of 96 bolls of victual, half meal, half barley, 61 l. 2 s. 2 d. in money, a manse and glebe of about 20 acres English. The Duke of Buccleugh is patron, as well as sole heritor. From a date, cut in stone, the manse appears to have been built 62 years ago, and at that period must have been one of the best finished, perhaps, in Scotland. It has since been frequently repaired, but is very much out of order at the time, and will require a thorough repair to make it lodgeable. The church is in no better condition; the walls being in decay, the roof and windows insufficient, and two-thirds of the seats calling loudly for renovation. It is expected that the church, manse, and offices will be completely repaired in the course of the ensuing summer.

State of the Poor.—The poor are maintained by an assessment levied from his Grace, and the tenants, who pay in proportion to their rents. One half of the sum judged necessary is paid by the Duke, and the other half by the tenants. The quantum allotted to individuals, is fixed by the
the

the kirk-session and principal tenants, who meet for that purpose at the commencement of every quarter, and is paid in advance. The sum varies according to the circumstances of the poor. Pensions are given from 5s. to 2l. 5s. a quarter. This mode of providing for the poor was adopted by this, and the other parishes of the district, in 1773, with the laudable design of restraining vagrant beggars, and confining them to their own parishes, where their necessities must be best known. By this scheme, it was presumed, that such as were rendered unable, by age or indisposition, to exercise their wonted industry, would be taken care of, when they could no longer labour for bread; while others, who had contracted habits of idleness, would be prevented from living upon the public stock, to which, by their industry, they were unwilling to contribute; and having no resource for idleness, be constrained to exertions of industry. And yet it is a question, whether those objects have been fully attained. In this parish, where none that are able and willing to labour, can want employment; where the price of provisions is reasonable, and fuel to be had at so easy a rate, and where house rents are extremely moderate, it is singular that the number of poor should have increased in proportion as the means of industry have been enlarged and diffused. When the poor rates were established in 1773, the era of improvements in Canoby, the annual amount was only 54l. 2s.; which left a surplus in the collector's hands, after affording the necessary supply to 24 individuals, the whole poor then in the parish. At Martinmas 1793, the number of poor on the roll was 68, and the assessment for their maintenance a quarter 44l. or 176l. a year; while, at the same time, there are two friendly societies in the parish, who have considerable

The names of places are expressive of their local situation and circumstances, and are generally of English derivation; as, Tarrasfoot, Drybrow, Broomyknow, Forge, where there was once an iron foundry; Priorhill, an eminence, part of the priory lands, &c. Barnghieff, where the remains of an old building appear, may perhaps be a contraction of the French, *Bernard eglise*, Bernard church. Torcoon, Glinzier, pronounced Gling-year, Mumbyhill, at which there are the ruins of a tower or castle, may afford exercise to adepts in Celtic and Saxon lore.

Persons of Eminence, Natives of the Parish.—The sons of the Reverend Mr. Petrie, who died minister of Canby, are entitled to notice under this head. Four are now alive, who, by their talents and industry, have all acquired splendid fortunes. The eldest, Dr. Robert Petrie, while he continued in practice, was an eminent physician in Lincoln, and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh; and the youngest, William Petrie, Esq., is, at this time, second in Council at Madras; who is no less distinguished for his benevolence and amiable manners in private life, than for his superior abilities in the public station he now fills.

Character, &c.—Many circumstances have occurred within these 20 or 30 years, to introduce a change in the dispositions and manners of the people. It is well known, that, wherever idleness prevails, vices as naturally spring up in the mind, as weeds in neglected fields. Industry was not formerly the characteristic of this part of the border. Gambling was a favourite pastime with many; with some, an employment. In particular, horse-racing and cock-fighting were much in vogue; and the irregularities consequent

requent upon such meetings, among the lower classes of the people, brought a stain upon the general character. The new farms that were set off, upon the waste lands, gave an establishment to many families; and in these, not only their comfort, but civil existence, depended upon their industry. The works carried on by his Grace in the parish have afforded regular employment to masons, wrights, and labourers; while the manufactures at Carlisle have given occupation to the numerous class of weavers: hence the spirit of industry was infused in a more general manner than before. As a check upon the conduct of the lower individuals, his Grace has reserved the cot-houses upon the farms in his own power; so that, at every term, any offender of this description, against the laws of good order, can be turned out of the parish. In all the new leases, a clause of nullity is inserted, in case of moral delinquencies therein specified; and tenants, even of a suspicious character, are in danger of losing their farms at the expiry of the lease. His Grace having fixed an occasional residence at Langholm Lodge, has an opportunity of being personally acquainted with the particular circumstances of the parish, which is honoured with his presence almost every day, while in the country; and being thus under his review, not only the character of the inhabitants in general, but even that of individuals, comes to be known: This circumstance has, no doubt, considerable weight in guarding the people against irregular conduct, which, they are assured, must preclude from all access to his Grace's favour. The happy effects of this plan of reform are conspicuous; and such reform is of far more importance to the comfort and happiness of society, than either triennial or annual parliaments could possibly be. The tenantry, so far as is known to the
writer,

writer, are industrious, sober, and decent, in all respects. The same may be said of the generality of the other class of inhabitants; although, it must be owned, there are exceptions, which, it is apprehended, would still be fewer, if spirituous liquors were more rare; and perhaps also, if parents were more attentive in teaching their children the first lesson of obedience to themselves: for by preserving the curb of parental authority, the young would be in a great measure prevented from contracting habits of dissipation in the early part of life, which afterwards are not easily eradicated.

The people are of the middle size, with a due proportion of bodily strength, capable of enduring hardships; sagacious, humane, and benevolent. Many are seriously disposed, and all for the most part regular in their attendance upon the public ordinances of religion.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The advantages have already been stated in the course of this inquiry. The only obvious disadvantage is the want of manufactures; which, from the increase of population, is already felt, and must be still more sensibly felt, if the population holds on in a progressing state. In the event of manufactures being established, the many small farms would, from that circumstance, acquire additional value; in which both landlord and tenant would have a joint interest. And it is humbly presumed, considering the advantages of public roads in all directions; of coal, lime, free-stone, and timber upon the spot; and every resource that rivers and rivulets may yield, that no place can be more favourably situated for many branches of manufacture, to which those articles are essential.

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF CRICHTON.

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND
TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH.)

By A FRIEND TO STATISTICAL INQUIRIES.

Situation, Extent, Soil, Agriculture, &c.

THIS parish is situated about 12 miles S. from Edinburgh. The great road leading to Cornhill and Kelso, runs through it. There are about 3900 acres in the parish. Above 1100 of these are outfield. This part of the parish is little capable of improvement. The soil is a thin moss on the surface, with either a wet soft sand, or clay bottom. The pasture it produces is scanty and bad, with little shelter for sheep. The proprietors have wisely turned their attention here to planting. The plantations seem to thrive well, and will beautify and shelter the country. Within these 5 years, about 50 acres have been planted, in stripes and clumps, upon the estate of Crichton.

The other part of the parish, towards the N., is well adapted to tillage. A great part of it is a deep rich soil,

and capable of producing heavy crops. The rest of it is dry and sharp, and well adapted to turnip. Many of the farms are enclosed with hedges and stone fences. The turnip husbandry has been introduced with success, and agriculture is in a thriving state.

Proportion of Crops.

Number of acres in oats, 567	Number of acres in turnip, 143
Barley, 199	Summer fallow, 55
Wheat, 60	Sown grass, 270
Pease, 50	Plantation, 150
Potatoes, 32	Pasture, 2369
Flax, 5	

Some of the enclosures of Crichton in pasture rent at three guineas the acre,

Number of draught horses, 100	Sheep, 1400
Saddle and carriage ditto, 26	Wheel carriages, 5
Cattle on pasture, 169	Carts, 52
Ditto on turnip in winter, 139	Ploughs, 33

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 611. The inhabitants of this parish are about 900 at present,

In the villages of Crichton	Persons under 10 years, 211
and Path-head, 450	Between 10 and 20, 148
In the country, 360	20 and 30, 143
Families, - - 248	30 and 40, 104
Males, - - 425	40 and 50, 138
Females, - - 475	50 and 60, 73
Annual average of births for	60 and 70, 58
10 years preceding 1791, 21	70 and 80, 18
Ditto of marriages, 10	80 and 90, 6

Between

Between 90 and 100,	1	Smiths,	2	8
Members of the Established Church,	690	Masons,	-	20
Seceders,	210	Carpenters,	-	11
Proprietors residing,	1	Weavers,	-	15
Ditto non-residing,	4	Tailors,	-	10
Clergyman,	1	Shoemakers,	-	4
Schoolmaster,	1	Cooper,	-	1
Farmers above 50l. a year,	10	Butcher,	-	1
Ditto under 50l.	4	Bakers,	-	4
Innkeepers,	5	Lint manufacturer,	-	1

Wages of Handicrafts, Labourers, &c.

A carpenter receives a	Female, at hay,	8d.
day, - 1s. 2d.	The female servant victualled	
A mason, - - 1s. 8d.	by her master,	1l. 15s.
Weaver for linen 8d. the yard.	The male servant victualled	
Do. coarse woollen 4d. do.	by his master, yearly,	6l. 6s.
Day labourer, male, 1s. 2d.		

Price of Provisions.

Beef, the pound,	4½d.	Fowls, ditto,	2s. 6d.
Veal,	5d.	Chickens, ditto;	1s. 4d.
Mutton,	4½d.	Butter, the pound,	10d.
Lamb, in June, the quar-		Cheese, the stone,	6s.
ter,	1s. 6d.	Oatmeal, the peck,	1s. 2d.
Pork, the pound,	4d.	Wheat, the boll,	23s.
Geese,	2s. 6d.	Barley,	17s.
Ducks, each pair,	2s. 6d.	Oats,	12s.

Minerals.—There is a lime-stone quarry wrought in this parish to a considerable extent. About 4000 bolls of lime are sold annually from this parish. The lime is carried upwards of 30 miles S., and raises excellent crops. Coal

has been discovered in this parish, but there is none wrought at present. The lime work is supplied with coal from the parish of Cranston.

Advantages.—The vicinity of Dalkeith market, the neighbourhood of coal and lime, and the great road leading to Edinburgh and to the S., are great advantages to the farmers. This parish has a peculiar advantage in being altogether freed from thirlage. For many years past, there has not been a corn mill in the parish. The lime work employs a considerable number of hands. About 6 years ago, a society was formed in Path-head, for the support of distressed labourers. The number at present is upwards of 140 : The stock amounts to 1601. Sterling.

Antiquities.—There are the remains of a camp or entrenchment at Longfaugh, in this parish. It stands upon a rising ground, is of a circular form, and the entrenchments may, in many parts, be easily traced. It is probable that some considerable battle had been fought in this parish, from the great number of bones dug up when Path-head was building. In the lower ground, several *chevaux de frise* have been found, which were used for wounding horses feet. They are in the form of rings, 6 inches in diameter, and armed all round with sharp pikes; turned up in a circular manner.—The castle of Crichton is a very ancient and magnificent building. “ This castle,” says Pennant, “ was once the habitation of the Chancellor “ Crichton, joint guardian with the Earl of Callander of “ James II., a powerful and spirited statesman in that “ turbulent age ; and the adviser of the bold, but bloody “ deeds against the too potent Douglas. During the life “ of Crichton, it was besieged, taken, and levelled with
“ the

“ ground by William Earl of Douglas. It was afterwards
“ rebuilt, and part of this new work is uncommonly ele-
“ gant.”

Ecclesiastical State.—The church was founded, 26th December 1449, by Sir William Crichton, Chancellor of Scotland, with consent of James Crichton, Knight, his son and heir, for a provost, 9 prebendaries and 2 singing boys, out of the rents of Crichton and Locherwart: a menfal church, belonging to the archbishop of St. Andrew's, reserving to the bishop the patronage of the prebends of Vogrie, Arnifton, Middleton, and Locherwart. It is a venerable building in the form of a cross, the W. end left unfinished. It is situated at the western extremity of the parish.—Colonel Callander of Crichton is patron.—The living is 3 chalders 12 bolls of barley, 3 chalders 4 bolls of meal, and 45*l.* Sterling in money. The glebe is between 6 and 7 acres of good land. The manse was built in 1758, and, with a small repair, might be made an excellent house.

School and Poor.—The school has been, for some years past, removed to Path-head, the most populous part of the parish. The schoolmaster's salary is about 100 merks: The fees, 1*s.* 6*d.* for English; 2*s.* for writing; and 2*s.* 6*d.* for writing and arithmetick. He has between 70 and 80 scholars; and his income may amount to 30*l.*—The poor are supported by the collections at the church door, the dues on marriages and funerals, and the remainder of a small stock, which is now nearly exhausted. Though assessment is not altogether without disadvantages, it will be necessary in this parish.

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF PRIMROSE, OR, CARRINGTON.

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND
TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN FLEMING.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE original name of this parish seems to have been Carrington, which is always pronounced, and very often spelled Cairnton. Of the origin of this name, no satisfactory account occurs. As far back as the year 1711, it seems to have received the name of Primrose, most probably from the family of that name having acquired a very large proportion of the landed property which it contains. But although, since the period above mentioned, which is the earliest at which any parish records appear, it has always passed under the name of Primrose in writing, such is the attachment of mankind to whatever is ancient, that, in the oral communications of the neighbourhood, it still, for the most part, retains the name of Cairnton. At the extreme points, its length, from E. to W., is about $3\frac{1}{2}$, and its breadth, from S. to N., 2 miles.

Climate,

Climate, Soil, Cultivation, and Produce.—The hills called the Moorfoots on the S., and the Pentlands on the N., by attracting the clouds in their progress from the W., render the climate of this parish rather drier than that of the country on both sides of it, in their more immediate neighbourhood. In the eastern part of the parish, the situation of which is low, the air is temperate; to the westward, it becomes colder than, from the shortness of the distance, and the inconsiderable elevation of the ground, antecedent to experience, we should have naturally supposed. The longevity of several of the inhabitants, and their freedom, in general, from epidemical diseases, seem to be proofs of its salubrity. About the village of Primrose, the soil is good and dry. But towards the extremities of the parish, it is cold, wet, and moorish, particularly to the N. and W. Villages seem generally to be set down upon the most eligible spots, both as to climate and soil, of the several districts in which they are situated. Even in those rude ages, in which settlements are formed, men have discernment to select those situations in which the air is least inclement, and the herbage most fresh and abundant. The cultivation and manure of a long series of years, which, in the infancy of agriculture, men always apply to the fields immediately adjacent to the villages they inhabit, increase the natural superiority of the circumjacent lands to those that are remote. The produce of the parish consists of wheat, barley, oats, pease, potatoes, turnips, and clover. On the light and dry lands, the most approved rotation of crops seems to be turnips or potatoes, oats, clover, turnips, &c. On those that are more inclined to wet and clay, wheat after fallow is more frequent. The plough, which is by far the most in general use, is that constructed by Small, and drawn by 2 horses. But a sense of the obvious

ous advantages to be derived from the use of single carts, has not been able to vanquish the inveterate prejudice against them, and in favour of double carts. On a very large proportion of the parish, very inconsiderable progress has been made in the improvements, of which it is susceptible. Not a small part of it is still unenclosed, and its general appearance is rather bleak and unsheltered.

Number, and Employment of the Inhabitants.—The average of births recorded from 1752 to 1762, was 16,5; from 1762 to 1772, 12,5; from 1772 to 1782, 11,5; from 1782 to 1792, 9,6: From which it appears, that as there are no manufactories in the parish, to encourage the influx of inhabitants from other quarters, the population must be in a state of gradual decrease. Hence, the number returned to Dr. Webster in 1755, which amounted to 555, was, in July 1793, reduced to 329 souls of both sexes, and of all ages and descriptions. The chief cause of this diminution has been the laying down to grass a considerable part of the lands, in consequence of which many of the farm houses and cottages have fallen into decay. If it were duly considered, that the soil derives its value entirely from the number of inhabitants, and the consequent demand for its produce, this mode of management would probably be adopted with more caution, even by those to whom profit is the ultimate object. The number of families in the parish is 85: of females, 171; of males, 158; and of children below 10 years of age, 66. There are 42 Seceders in the parish, including the children of those who are of that persuasion. All the rest of the inhabitants attend the Established Church. There are in the parish 9 farmers, 1 smith, 1 wright, 2 weavers, 3 tailors, 1 shoemaker, 1 gardener, and 1 small innkeeper.

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The bulk of the rest of the people are farmers servants and labourers. There are no practitioners either of law or physic in the parish. There are only 2 heritors, 1 of whom resides.

Rent, &c.—The valued rent of the parish is 2830l. Scots. As more than one-third of the whole land in it is in the natural possession of the proprietors, the real rent cannot be ascertained with precision. For the same reason, the number of black cattle, horses, and sheep maintained in it cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy; because they are always considerably more numerous in summer than in winter. The rent of the largest farm is 235l., and of the smallest 50l. Sterling *.

Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church was built in 1711. Its form is regular and convenient, and its walls well built and substantial. But as the roof is much decayed, as the windows are shattered, the walls rough from the hand of the mason, the seats crazy and irregular, its internal appearance is the very reverse of that simple elegance which befits a place of public worship.

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* The rate of wages is as follows: Of a ploughman, from 6l. to 7l.; of a maid servant, from 2l. 10s. to 3l. 10s. a year, besides victuals: of a labourer, from 10d. to 14d.; and of a woman for hoeing turnips or potatoes, or for hay-making, from 6d. to 7d. a day, without victuals: of a mason or wright, from 20d. to 22d. a day, without victuals: The wages for cutting hay, but especially corn, in harvest, vary according to circumstances. For some time past, work people of all kinds have been more easily procured than formerly, and their wages begin rather to fall. The price of every article is nearly the same here, as in the Edinburgh market, by which it is regulated; with this disadvantage, however, that the inhabitants of this parish must pay the carriage of every thing they sell to Edinburgh, and of every thing they buy, from that city, which is at the distance of about 9 miles.

The manse was built in 1756, and underwent a thorough repair in 1790; but the offices are paltry and ruinous. The stipend, by decret of locality in 1742, is 32 bolls of barley, 32 bolls of oatmeal, and 38l. 6s. 8d. in money.—The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks Scots. The number of his scholars is generally under 20. The only branches of education that are taught are, reading English, writing, and arithmetick. For the first of those, the school wages are 14d.; for the second 18d.; and for the third 2s. a quarter. The whole of the schoolmaster's income, including perquisites of every kind, cannot exceed 10l. a year, besides a small house and garden.—The number of poor upon the parish roll is generally about 12, who receive, according to their exigencies, from 2s. to 4s. 6d. a month. This monthly distribution is made from the collections at the church doors, dues of marriages and mortcloths, &c.; and formerly, draughts upon a small fund at interest, but that being lately exhausted, at present an assessment, of about 16l. a year, paid equally by the landlords and tenants. Poor rates, like every other thing, may be attended with some inconvenience. They may, in some instances, encourage idleness and avidity in those by whom they are claimed, or peculation and extravagance in those by whom they are administered. But it seems undeniable, that they possess this advantage, that they proportion distribution to opulence, and force the churlish to share equally with the charitable, the burden of supplying the necessities of the indigent.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The only regular fund for repairing the roads and bridges in the parish, is the statute labour, which is converted at 18d. for every ploughgate, and which amounts to about 18l. a year. The length of
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the whole roads in the parish may be about 10 miles. The whole of these roads were, till very lately, in a miserable state of disrepair, and a great part of them has never been yet formed. In these circumstances, it is not to be expected that the application of so small a sum can be productive of any considerable improvement. Sensible, however, of the advantages of good roads, which furnish one of the most desirable accommodations in every country, the farmers and inhabitants have of late years managed this business in a manner very creditable to themselves, and beneficial to the publick. Besides making good some of the roads, which were formerly impassable, they have built 2 small bridges, and levelled 2 very heavy pulls; and if the road leading from Peebles through the villages of Primrose and Dalhousie to Dalkeith, which has hitherto absorbed a great part of the parish funds, and on which there was erected, several years ago, a turnpike near the place last mentioned, was to be repaired from the proceeds of that turnpike, which those who use the road, and pay the toll duties, are certainly entitled to expect, there is reason to believe, that the repairs of the other roads would advance so rapidly, that the whole would soon be in good condition.

There is only 1 threshing machine in the parish. It is of such a construction, that one similar to it may be erected for about 30*l*. It is wrought by 2 horses, and is equal to the work of any farm. The publick attention, with regard to those useful machines, seems to have been fixed upon a wrong point. The test of superior excellence appears to have been hitherto chiefly the production of the greatest quantity of work in a given time. Hence, machines have been constructed, which, especially when wrought by water, are sufficient to thresh the produce,

not of one farm only, but of a whole parish. But certainly it would be more useful to endeavour to reduce them to such simplicity of form, and lowness of price, as would bring them within the reach of those farmers of moderate capital, who compose the great body of that profession. Hence, every model of those machines, which can be constructed at a small expense, merits the publick attention; so that by comparing the different forms, experience may be able to ascertain, which is, upon the whole, the most eligible.

On the river South Esk, which bounds the parish on the S. and S. E., there are some good stations for erecting machinery, and particularly one thought to be extremely commodious for a paper mill. In some future period of more advanced industry, those stations may prove the more valuable, that the whole parish is said to be a field of coal of different strata, one of which is of very superior quality, and another of the thickness of 11 feet. It has also been thought by some, that the adjacent grounds exhibit strong appearances of iron stone. Upon the banks of this river also, which are now overrun and deformed with furze and broom, trees would shoot with luxuriance, shade and beautify the country, and amply reward the planter's toil. But all those natural advantages remain neglected. To whatever quarter of the globe we turn our thoughts, similar, but more striking, objects of regret meet our observation. The earth, which industry might have turned into a fruitful garden, remains, for the most part, a waste and barren wilderness. How numerous and extensive are the Savannahs, on which the ploughshare and the sickle never gleamed! How tall and majestic are the forests, in which the sound of the hatchet never echoed! Upon many of the

the rivers, which roll their mighty waters through the nations, the sail of commerce has been almost never seen. The surface of the earth is strewed, and its bowels are impregnated, with the rude materials of useful manufactures, which the hand of skill has never touched. Man seems more eager to desolate and destroy, than to produce and cultivate. When shall the happy period arrive, at which ruin and carnage shall cease for ever, and all the sons of men shall place their glory in imitating the character of the Supreme Universal Father, who delights to create, to improve, and to felicitate ?

NUMBER

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF CORSTORPHINE.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF
LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES OLIVER.

Name, Extent, Surface, and Soil.

THIS parish is said to have obtained its name from the circumstance of a golden cross being presented to the church by some French nobleman, "*Croix, d'or fine*," and hence Corstorphine. But as there is no remnant of tradition, which relates to any change of name having taken place, and which this vulgar opinion doth imply, we are rather to look for the origin of the name from some of those local circumstances which determined the first settlers to give to places those appellations which they yet bear. According to some skilled in the Gaelic tongue, the name signifies the milk-house under the hill. Others derive it from *Coire*, a large hollow, or round glen; *Stoir*, steps through a wet place; and *Phin*, either from *Fionn*, white, or from *Fein* the Fingobans, i. e. the hollow or glen with the white steps, or the glen of the Fingoban

Fingoban steps. The termination *Fin*, may have come from *Fionh*, wells or fountains.—Its greatest length is 4 English miles, and its greatest breadth $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles; its form is regular.—The surface is in general level, rising to few eminences, and these inconsiderable; over a great part of its extent, it spreads into a smooth plain. The grounds of greatest elevation, are those which go by the name of Corstorphine-hills, an appellation they hardly could have gained, unless from being in a manner insulated in the midst of rich vallies, where they form a diversity highly conducive to the beauty of the country: on the S. and W. sides, they rise from the plain by an easy gradual ascent; on the E. side, they are more precipitate, and run N. in an indented cristated form, into the boundaries of the parish of Cramond. Their appearance on the S. side is remarkable for its beauty. They are decorated with the beautiful seats of Belmont * and Beechwood; the latter of which is remarkable for that pleasing and elegant neatness with which it hath been embellished by its present possessor. Almost the whole of the grounds being arable, and of the greatest value when converted to this use, there is less occupied with plantations than is necessary for the embellishment of the country, and even, perhaps, than what might actually be conducive to its interests, from affording that shelter which is so friendly to vegetation †. Every diversity of soil, in its several modifications,

* In 1745, the Duke of Cumberland, when passing by Belmont, observed, that in his march through Scotland, this villa was the handsomest he had seen, and the most in appearance like those in England.

† There is growing near the village, in a close belonging to Sir William Dick, a sycamore tree of a considerable size, and the largest in Scotland, which, in the end of May and beginning of June, exhibits an appearance of the most striking beauty. That side which is exposed to the sun, in the colour

difications, is to be found in this parish. In some places, there is found the rich black loam : this, diversified with clay and sand, forms that which prevails most, and produces very plentiful crops. In a great part of the meadow ground, it is mossy, or composed of decayed vegetables.

Metals and Minerals.—There are no metals or minerals at present dug in this parish, nor any account of their ever having been found. Search at present is making for coal in the grounds of Mr. Keith of Raveston, where there are very fine quarries of free or sand-stone, much in request for the buildings carrying on at Edinburgh, on the side of Corstorphine-hill, opposite to Mr. Keith's quarries, which are composed of the sand-stone. There are in the lands of Clermiston inexhaustible quarries of the blue whin-stone, or toad-stone.

Church, Manse, and School.—The church is an ancient and respectable building : It is of Gothick architecture, and built in the form of the Jerusalem cross. The present church was founded near the parish church of this place, by Sir John Forester of Corstorphine, Lord High Chamberlain of Scotland, and ancestor to the Lord Forester, in the year 1429, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist, for a provost, 5 prebendaries, and 2 singing boys. It was a collegiate church, to which belonged those of Corstorphine, Dalmahoy, Hatton, Cramond, Collington, &c. The teinds of Ratho, half of the teinds of Adderton, and of Upper Gogar, were appropriated among the revenues of this college. The first provost was Nicholas Bannatyne, who

four of the leaves, is of the richest vivid yellow hue ; from whence this tree is easily distinguished at a distance almost incredible. A few slips have been taken from it, and which are thriving very well in other parts of the country.

who died in 1470, and was buried in the church, where his epitaph still remains. The coat of arms of the family of Forester is every where dispersed over the building. Within the church in niches, are several monumental remains of this family. The figures, cut out in stone, are as large as life : Amidst that decay, which they appear to have suffered from time and violence, they exhibit proofs of having been executed with dexterity and skill. The male figures are covered with complete armour, and the female appear richly ornamented, according to the fashion and dress of the times. The roof is supported by strong arches, and is formed by large stone flags : The whole building seems to have suffered little by the waste of time. The inside, a few years ago, was fitted up in a modern and commodious manner, at a considerable expense, by the heritors. Sir William Dick of Prestonfield, Baronet, is patron.—The manse and offices have been repaired by the heritors this last year, for the convenience of the incumbent.—The schoolmaster hath no house, but is allowed a sum of money in lieu thereof. What is perhaps singular, he hath a small piece of ground or glebe, near the extent of an acre, amongst the emoluments of his office, contiguous to the village ; and besides this, he possesseth an acre of ground, which lies upon the side of the Water of Leith, near Coltbridge, which is called the Lamp Acre : a piece of ground which was destined for defraying the expenses of a lamp which hung in the E. end of the church of Corstorphine. It is not long since the pulley for supporting it was taken down. There are various conjectures concerning the use this lamp was intended to serve. Some say, that it was in honour of the Virgin, before whose statue it was lighted up : others, and with more probability, think, that it served as a beacon to

direct travellers going from Edinburgh, along a road which, in those times, was both difficult and dangerous.

There is in this parish another place of worship, but which appears never to have been used for that purpose since the time of the Reformation. It is a small chapel at Gogar, which is now annexed to Corstorphine: there is a burying-ground around it, and which is still used for this purpose. There are also a few acres of ground as a glebe, which belongs to the minister of Corstorphine, and which, some years ago, was let in feu by the presbytery of Edinburgh to the proprietor of the estate of Gogar.

There is a school still supported in the village of Gogar. Besides the emolument of class-fees, the schoolmaster is in use to receive some benefaction from the proprietor of the place.

Population,, &c.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 995. The present number of souls is 1037: of males, 484; of females, 553; at 8 years of age, and under, there are 228; of families, there are 250; which makes only $4\frac{1}{7}$ to a family. The number of farms is about 17; and none of them of immoderate extent. The practice of engrossing small farms seems not to have been practised in a degree any way prejudicial in this parish. The greatest part of it is divided between 3 heritors: Besides these, there are about 14 smaller heritors and feuars. There are no manufacturers in this parish. The numbers employed in the common occupation of tradesmen, are as under:

Tailors	3,	1 Apprentice;	_____
Weavers	8,	3 Apprentices;	_____
Carpenters	9,	6 Apprentices,	2 Journeymen;
			Masons

for the sale of produce, the real rent of the land in the parish amounts nearly to 5000*l.* Sterling. The average rent the acre (Scots measure) may be computed from 36*s.* to 2*l.* Sterling.

Agriculture.—Agriculture, in its different departments is conducted in this parish according to the most improved modes adopted in Scotland, or the bordering counties of England. Summer fallow, and a due proportion of green or meliorating crops, are observed in the rotations. But the mode of conducting these is often varied by the most judicious farmers, and which arises from a circumstance of local advantage, their access to procure dung from Edinburgh; by this means, they are enabled to raise crops from their lands in a succession, which those who have not this advantage do not venture to try. It will therefore, in general, be found, that in places more remote from the capital, a greater uniformity prevails in their systems of management than is observed here. Particular attention is paid to raising of potatoes, which is here conducted with great success, and for which Edinburgh affords a ready market. They reckon their land after this crop to be very favourable for raising wheat; and which being a profitable crop on high rated land, is necessary for defraying the expense laid out in preparing the ground for the potatoe crop. To bring an acre of a potatoe crop to market, amounts to an expense of 10*l.*, on land rented at 2*l.* the acre. Dung 4*l.*; ploughing, planting, and dressing, 2*l.* 10*s.*; rent, 2*l.*; carrying to market, 1*l.* 10*s.*, at the rate of 1*s.* the boll, 30 bolls being an average produce: Total, 10*l.* For seed, those called Red Nebs, are in highest estimation. The raising of yams, for the feeding of horses, is beginning more and more

more to be introduced.—Turnips are cultivated in this parish, but not to a great extent. Though they are reared here to great perfection, and repay the farmer's toil, bringing this year (1793), near 6l. the acre, and consumed upon the farm; yet they are not reckoned the most profitable green crop, as they exclude the wheat crop, which is here of such importance. The Swedish turnip hath been introduced into this parish: the seed is sown in beds in a garden, and planted out in drilled rows. The farmers, in general, dislike this species of turnip, and prefer the common one; although it certainly may be subservient to the best purposes. On farms where cattle or sheep are fed with turnip, as the common species is so apt early to shoot, or be rendered useless by frost, where there is no supply of any other succulent or green food, the cattle must either be supported with hay and corn, at an enormous expense, or the farmer must bring them to market, however disadvantageous to his interest. The Swedish turnip, as it stands against the frost, and is not apt to shoot, offers to the farmer the most probable and certain relief against this inconvenience. This season, it hath been cultivated to a considerable extent at Gogar, and with great success, notwithstanding the dryness of the season of planting. It will also serve most advantageously to fill up blanks in the rows of the other turnip.—There is not a great number of milch cows kept by the farmers, the profits of the dairy not being reckoned equal to those which arise from the produce of the lands, when in tillage.

They still prepare for market, a considerable quantity of what is well known over the kingdom, by the name of Corstorphine Cream. I have not been able to receive any account of the time when it was first introduced. I have

no doubt, but it hath a just claim to a very great antiquity. Nor do I know if the same mode of preparation hath been always in use: at present, there is some variation observed. I believe, the most approved process is very simple, and is as follows: They put the milk, when fresh drawn, into a barrel or wooden vessel, which is submitted to a certain degree of heat, generally by immersion in warm water: this accelerates the stage of fermentation; the serous is separated from the other parts of the milk, the oleaginous and coagulable; the serum is drawn off by a hole in the lower part of the vessel; what remains is put into the plunge churn, and, after being agitated for some time, is sent to market as Corstorphine cream *.

Implements of Husbandry.—These, in no respect, differ from such as are in common use. There are 2 threshing mills in this parish; and the farmers are so convinced of their utility, that more will soon be erected: In the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, they are of singular advantage; they enable the farmer, when he sees it profitable, to bring a great part of his crop immediately to market; he is not encumbered with the straw, as he would be in distant parts of the country, as Edinburgh offers him a ready market for it at all times. In a farm of any considerable extent,

* Oxen are used on one farm in this parish, with great advantage. The prejudices which have excluded their employment from the labours of agriculture, are likely to be removed: perhaps, they arose from the dislike of the servants, more than the opinion of the master; the former being better pleased with the sight of a pair of sleek well-fed horses. When properly trained, they will walk as fast as horses in the yoke; and, when as well fed, will perform the same labour. On the above farm, two pair have often ploughed an acre of summer fallow in a day. They are successfully employed on this farm, in drawing in a threshing machine: Their equal steady draught is admirably suited to this purpose.

extent, these machines will very much reduce to the farmer the price of labour; with his ordinary hands, he can thresh his corn, and carry on all his other occupations on the same day. They may now be built for the expense of 40l. or 45l. Sterling, to be worked by 2 horses. One in the neighbouring parish of Cramond (at Gray-Crook, belonging to Mr. Allan), constructed on these principles, will thresh from 6 to 8 bolls in the hour.

Manure.—That alone which is here used, is dung either made upon the farm, or brought from Edinburgh. There can be no dispute concerning the superiority of this manure over all others; but it hath been a matter of considerable surprise to farmers in other counties, why lime is rejected as a manure in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, where, though dung may be procured, it is often at an exorbitant rate. It is answered to this, that the lands here, which have received dung mixed with so much ashes, would be injured by liming; the ashes having performed that which the lime is intended to produce, viz. to loosen the soil, and act as a stimulus. Notwithstanding of this opinion, which is believed to be well founded, perhaps lime, in certain cases, might be applied with advantage; not to ground which is impoverished and exhausted of vegetable aliment, but in the rankest soil, and where even the greatest quantity of dung hath been laid down: as it is well known, that calcareous bodies have a strong affinity to oils, the lime applied to ground abounding with these, will assist in bringing forward that process which is favourable to vegetation; and if it abounds with the uncorrupted roots of weeds and noxious plants, it will hasten their destruction, and thus produce a double benefit. I may perhaps here, with propriety, remark, that I

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have heard it often taken notice of, as an error in the farmers of this neighbourhood, that they were not sufficiently careful to have their grounds cleaned by summer fallow, before they manured them with Edinburgh dung *.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The advantages are derived almost entirely, perhaps, from the vicinity to the capital, where the demand for whatever the ground can produce is constant and great. The farmer feels these advantages in every branch of his transactions. The straw of his corns, and even his chaff, become objects of considerable value from this circumstance. The landlord is sensibly benefited, from the great increase of rent which these circumstances produce. Another advantage this parish possesses is, from being very conveniently intersected by the two great roads which lead to Glasgow; by which means, the communication with the Edinburgh market for carriages is convenient and easy.

One of the disadvantages is, the distance from coal, Corstorphine being almost equally removed from the coal mines in the E. or the W. parts of the Lothians. The lower grounds of this parish suffer much inconvenience from

* *Price of Labour.*—The wages of ploughmen, and other labourers employed in husbandry, and who are hired yearly, or at the end of every half year, are not extravagantly high in this parish, and are lower than in many other places of Scotland, particularly in the counties of Roxburgh and Berwickshire. Servants who are married, and have families, besides pecuniary emolument, have such a recompense, in carriage of fuel, in meal, and other necessaries of life, as renders their situation comfortable. The average increase of the wages of men and women servants, within these last seven years, may be reckoned about one-third. The wages of masons and carpenters are in a higher proportion than those of servants employed in husbandry; perhaps, this is owing to the vicinity to the capital, where their labour, for many years, has been so much demanded.

from being readily flooded by water after heavy and incessant rains. From their level situation, the water is not easily removed, the ground thereby injured, and the hopes of the husbandman often frustrated. There is a vast track of meadow ground, which is subjected to this inconvenience. If there are great falls of rain early in harvest, the whole crop is in danger of being lost; which hath not unfrequently happened. To drain these grounds, and to subject them to the culture of the plough, hath been of late a considerable object of attention to the proprietors, and sums of money expended. And so great and inconvenient was the accumulation of waters on these grounds in former times, that in the last century, it was made an object of parliamentary attention: and, in 1661, an act of parliament was passed, enjoining a strict attention to the clearing, every two years, what is called the great drain, and empowering every one interested in it to compel the others through whose lands it passes to do their part. The inconvenience, from the superabundance of stagnated waters, hath in part been removed; for so considerable was it, that the Lords Forester of Corstorphine were accustomed to bring their provisions from Edinburgh, by water carriage, in a boat, from Coltbridge to their house at Corstorphine; where there are the remains of a very considerable moat or ditch for holding water. But while this evil hath been removed, the chief object, viz. to bring the lands into a state of culture, hath not been procured; and, between the two, a material loss hath been sustained. These grounds formerly produced very heavy crops of grass and aquatic plants; and, before the introduction of broad clover, were the chief supply of the Edinburgh market, for green food for cattle; by the partial draining they have received, they are rendered too dry

for the production of the aquatic plants, and not dry enough for the purpose of tillage. A plan hath been proposed, and which the situation of the ground renders perfectly practicable, for conducting canals through the ground, as is done in several places of England; and thereby, with the assistance of sluices, laying, at pleasure, and for limited periods, the grounds under water, so as to raise that abundant herbage formerly produced, and, at the same time, delivering the country from the evil and the inconvenience of stagnating waters.—It will, perhaps, be thought strange, that I should class among the disadvantages of this parish, the execution of the intended canal. The farming interest are of opinion, they would be materially injured by it. It is evident, that, as a mode of conveyance to them so near Edinburgh, it is no object; but it would deprive them of the privilege they, with others in the vicinity, exclusively possess, of purchasing the street and other dung about Edinburgh: For by the canal, it would find its way to places even very remote. Several articles, too, as potatoes, &c. would be reduced in the prices they now bear, by being brought from lands much lower rented. Besides this, the number of horses, employed in carrying goods from the west country, would thereby be diminished; which at present furnish a lucrative market for some of their crops; as, hay, oats, and especially pease and beans.

There is a great want of running water in this parish, except in one corner, where it is slightly visited by the Water of Leith; and in a small part of its western division, by the little rivulet called Gogar Burn. There is no appearance of any stream to animate the scene, or to be made subservient to the purposes of manufactures and of improvements.

Among the present disadvantages of this parish, is reckoned the want of manufactures. It is evident, from its being not supplied with water, so necessary in the requisite machinery, that only certain species of manufactures are admissible. And the extent to which these ought here to be introduced, appears to me to be a subject of the last importance, but of nice and difficult discussion. I am not much conversant in subjects of political economy, and it is with extreme diffidence I venture to advance any thing on this subject, but feeling its importance, as intimately connected with the public prosperity, and best interests of the people, I suggest what follows :

In this parish, agriculture is to be considered as the primary profession, and all others should be conducted with the view of promoting its success ; for it is the foundation which supports manufactures. That it hath not yet been carried to the utmost point of perfection it will admit, is not only true of this neighbourhood, but of the most cultivated districts in England : a still larger capital, a still greater number of hands may be employed. The improvements carrying on in the fields ; the change in the mode of husbandry, by the introduction of new machinery ; of new species of grain or of seeds, and to which no limits can be assigned, demand the employment of a number of people of every sex and age, in the service of the husbandmen for carrying on his plans. Formerly, hay time and harvest were the only seasons which called forth women, and people of sedentary professions ; but now, in the improving system, the whole summer requires their labours. Children too, who formerly had no share in the task, may now, at an age not very advanced, be made useful, and contribute assistance to their parents for supporting them, without impairing their vigour, or stinting

their growth. While agriculture thus offers not only a resource against want, but the means of comfortable subsistence to such as are able and willing to work, in parishes situated like this, in a political view, I should consider it as unwise to attempt the introduction of manufactures to any considerable extent: In a moral view, I should consider it with regret and with dread. On this subject, under all the existing circumstances, the balance is not to be struck between the gains on the one side and on the other, that of manufactures and that of agriculture, but between the sum of actual enjoyment and prosperity to be produced on each side. I hesitate not one moment to decide, that it is in favour of agriculture, in a proportion almost too great for calculation. By the pursuit of agriculture, is every person employed who is willing to work? Doth industry reap a reward, by which not only the necessities, but comforts of life are procured? In a place so situated, what more is wanted? Are manufactures introduced, workmen employed there will get higher wages; but with these too, the desire to spend them in idle dissipation. Useful hands would be tempted to forsake the peaceful labours of agriculture, where a rise of wages would, by the farmer, be severely felt. The employments in agriculture greatly conduce, not only to promote the health of the lower classes, but to preserve their morals from that degradation and corruption which is lamented in manufacturing towns. The grasping hand of avarice, never satisfied, exacts from children employed in manufactures, tasks unsuited to their years; sickly and debilitated, their growth is never or seldom that of full manhood. Since the manufacturing rage hath commenced, the waste of the human species would not be easy to compute. Children bear the confinement with impatience, unjustly deprived of the hours

hours which, in the season of youth, should be devoted to play, they often are tempted to embrace the opportunity of making their escape. In the works of agriculture, in which they are employed, they often also discover that they are amused. In manufacturing places, where numbers are necessarily assembled, the poison of vice spreads wide, and enters deep; in those of advanced years, the degradation and corruption which the human mind suffers, is painful to consider; their politics too often degenerate into tumult and rebellion; their religion, if they even profess any, into idle disputation, discord, and schism. The manners of the people employed in husbandry are generally marked by contentment, respect for religion, and every peaceable disposition. Their health seldom needs to be repaired by the aid of the physician; and associations, for relief in distresses of this nature, are hardly to be found amongst this class of men, as is stated by Mr. Robertson in his *Agricultural Survey*; but amongst manufacturers, where it is impaired by the unwholesomeness of their profession, or the consequences of debauchery*.

Miscellaneous

* These observations I have not made from theoretical principles, but from actual observation; which was confirmed to me by a neighbouring clergyman, into whose parish manufactures, to a considerable extent, have been introduced. The persons there employed are collected from all the manufacturing towns in England, Ireland, and Scotland. They are continually fluctuating; feel no degree of interest in the prosperity of the place; and act as if delivered from all the restraints of decency and decorum. In general, they manifest a total disregard to character, and indulge in every vice which opportunity enables them to perform.

The influence of their contagious example must spread, and familiarize to crimes persons who formerly considered them with abhorrence. While I entertain no doubts respecting these observations, on the subject of manufactures in general, I am also of opinion, that, under a certain modification, they may be introduced into a country parish, where agriculture ought to be the principal
object

Miscellaneous Observations.—The air of this place, though often loaded with fogs and damps, which exhale from the low grounds, which are of a wet nature, cannot be reckoned unhealthy. Any noxious effects which these might produce, are probably prevented by that ventilation which this place receives by the winds, which frequently blow here with considerable violence, from the W. and S. W. There are not here any endemic diseases; and the epidemic diseases, when they prevail, have by no means here any peculiar virulence. The village of Corstorphine hath generally been reported to be in an unhealthy situation, by reason of dampness. I have met with no proofs of this opinion, in the situation of the health of its inhabitants:

object of attention, with advantage. There is a great part of the season, as in winter, when the farmer needs not the work of those people, which his summer occupations require. The labour in which they are employed in their own houses, during that interval, is seldom so productive as to subsist them with comfort. To employ them in that season, in such manufactures as would keep alive and stimulate their industry, and be a source of emolument to their families, would be to dispense to them essential benefits. But to accomplish this, will be found to be a work of greater difficulty than at first sight may appear. The point in question to be gained is, to promote in them the industrious spirit and habits of the manufacturer, to permit them to reap and enjoy a share of his habits, without debilitating their minds, impairing their health, or destroying their predilection and relish for the labours of the field, when the season calls them forth, and to which the most decisive preference ought ever to be given. To discuss this subject, is greatly beyond the bounds or designs of an article in a Statistical Report. It presents a field of laborious discussion, concerning those means by which it might be made practicable, and which would exhaust a volume. I am not possessed of the information necessary, or the talents requisite for the execution of such a work. I hope the opinion on which it is founded, will not be considered as chimerical, or the plan impracticable. The idea presses on my mind, as being of the highest importance, in a political and moral view. The man who, with success, shall consecrate his labours to accomplish this object, is justly worthy of envy: For to him shall be due the praise of having advanced and secured the best interests of patriotism, of humanity, and of virtue.

bitants : rheumatism is not more general here than in Edinburgh, or other places. I have never seen the intermittent fever in any form. In the village and parish, there are a great many old persons, but none at an age which merits particular notice.

The people of this parish, in respect of their general character, are entitled to praise. They are industrious in their occupations : and, though in the neighbourhood of the capital, they discover no foolish and vain desire to copy after its fashions; neither have they adopted its vices. Their conduct is never marked by any indecent outrage against the laws, by which society is maintained, and publick happiness promoted, or against the rules of decency and decorum. It is not intended to say, that from vice or blemish they are free ; but these are of that class which belong more to the individual, than to the publick character. They are stained by none which sometimes characterize whole classes of people, pointing them to their neighbours as the objects of scorn and of abhorrence. Their religious sentiments are not disgraced by rancour or animosity : they regard the Sabbath. In their attendance on publick worship, they are regular and exemplary ; during divine service, they are attentive and devout.

It would be improper, were I not here to take notice of that liberality of sentiment which Dissenters also discover in matters regarding religion. Difference, in religious opinion, excites no discord or strife between them and their brethren of the Establishment : They exercise acts of mutual kindness, and live in the bonds of charity and fraternal love. They who belong to the inferior class in society, have an appearance in their persons, houses, and families, which is both decent and respectable, and not exceeded by any on the same level in any part of the country :

country : They are perfectly instructed and expert in the exercise of their professions ; and this they discover not by the affectation of a knowledge that puffeth up, but by something in their manner, which the eye will understand best, which it is not easy to express : It seldom gives offence ; it intimates a manly consciousness of their abilities, and of deserving the just reward of exercising them.

It was with infinite pleasure I observed an attention paid to cleanliness, neatness, and propriety in their houses, which, in the lower ranks in society, is an unequivocal proof of a regard to sentiment and to character. They were generally well furnished, and accommodated with those conveniencies which, in former ages, would have been deemed luxury. An air of satisfaction and of contentment was in general diffused over all ; and the heart of every philanthropist and good man, must have rejoiced in beholding a share of the increasing prosperity and wealth of the country falling to the lot of a numerous and deserving class of men. And this reflection inevitably strikes the mind, that no change or revolution in the systems of government, could ever render the situation of the labouring class of society (and which in every change must exist), more comfortable or more happy.

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF EWES.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF
LANGHOLM.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN LAURIE.

Situation, Extent, and Name.

THE parish of Ewes is situated in the eastern extremity of the county of Dumfries. Its length from N. to S. is 8 miles; and its medium breadth about 5½. The water of Ewes runs through the parish, taking its rise in the height of the country, at the northern extremity, and losing itself in the Esk at Langholm, 2 miles below its southern boundary, dividing it almost into two equal parts. In the E. part of the parish, the water of Tarras takes its rise, and, running nearly S. W., discharges itself likewise into the Esk, nearly 3 miles below the town of Langholm. —I have no guess of the etymology of the name of the parish, unless it be taken from its being a pasture country, and fed mostly by sheep of that description.

Roads, Surface, &c.—The great turnpike road from Edinburgh, by Hawick, Langholm, and Carlisle, to London, runs along the banks of the Ewes, and gives it an air of improvement which it did not before possess. This road was, according to my information, planned by Mr. Pulteney, and carried into execution in the year 1765, by an act of parliament, obtained for that purpose. There are 2 other publick roads, the one leading to the E., and opening a communication into that division of the county of Roxburgh called Liddesdale; the other opening up the communication to Dumfries and Moffat. Both these roads were made by act of parliament, laying on so much yearly upon the lands of the different heritors, according to their valued rent, and which the tenants are obliged to pay in lieu of the ordinary statute-labour. The country is very agreeable; the hills, on both sides of the water, being entirely green, except some small spots of heath, fringed with plantations, which thrive well, and bid fair to pay amply for the land occupied by them; and if his Grace the Duke of Buccleugh should continue to plant, it will become, perhaps, the most pleasant highland country in the S. of Scotland. Even in its present situation, the views are many of them striking and picturesque from the different aspects, which, at almost every turn of the road, the country assumes.

Antiquities.—Though next to a border parish, there is not, as far as I can find, after the most minute inquiry, one single antiquity worth the taking notice of, except one small station, which appears to me to be either Saxon or Pictish, from its form.

Heritors, Rent, Stock, &c.—There are no residing heri-

ritors; the whole of the parish belonging to his Grace the Duke of Buccleugh, Mr. Elliot of Borthwickbrae, in the county of Selkirk, Mr. Elliot of Arckleton, an officer in his Majesty's 22d regiment of foot, and Dr. John Elliot of Redheugh, in the county of Roxburgh.—The gross rental is above 2000l.; of which three-fourths is payable to his Grace. It is supposed the stock upon the lands of the different heritors is nearly 18,000 sheep; 120 black cattle; and between 40 and 50 horses. The sheep are of the long white-faced breed; which the tenants are improving, as I am told, both in size and the quality of the wool, by rams brought from the higher parts of Northumberland. The quantity of wool produced yearly is between 170 and 180 packs, containing 12 Scotch stone each; which sold last year at the medium price of 16s. 6d. the stone; but, by the change of markets, has this year sold at 12s.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—In the lower parts of the parish, the land upon the banks of the water is generally dry, and inclined to gravel; but towards the head, to a strong deep clay. Very little corn is sown; not more than 80 bolls, Roxburgh measure, one year with another: The produce, from the dampness of the climate, in most years, is small, and in none, scarcely equal to the expense incurred by the purchase of the seed, and of the servants and horses necessary for carrying on the labour. Potatoes are also cultivated with success. Within these few years, the tenants have sown turnips, which are generally good, and mostly given to the cows and young cattle.—The rents of the farms rise in progression, from 30 to 200 guineas, but are mostly above 100 guineas.—The improvements in building have, for some time past, been considerable; several of the tenants having got new houses and offices in

a superior style, by the encouragement of the Duke, who gives them wood, slate, and lime; and most of them will soon be as well provided.

Manufactures.—The only tradesmen are 7 weavers, some of whom are employed in weaving coarse woollen stuffs, from yarn which they purchase from Galloway, and that neighbourhood, and sell at Carlisle for 7d. the yard; and the rest either in weaving linen checks, for a manufactory at the same place, or in country work. One smith, employed by the farmers; and 2 tailors.

Climate.—We have no remarkably old people, only 2 Mr. Borthwick, a tenant of the Duke of Buccleugh's, who is 84; and, except his hearing, retains his faculties perfectly. There are no diseases peculiar to the parish, but what people in all damp climates are liable to.

Poor, Wages, &c.—The poor rates were established in 1774, and have not exceeded, one year with another, 30l.; and, from the particular situation of the parish, it is probable will be still less.—The wages of the men servants, employed in husbandry, from 7l. to 9l. a year; and of the women, from 2l. 10s. to 3l. The wages of herds cannot be so easily known, as they are all paid in kind, so that they depend mostly upon the markets for sheep and wool. Day-labourers, 10d. a day, through the season, when they get provisions; and 1s. 2d. otherwise.

Population.—The inhabitants of this parish have, for some time past, been diminishing. I find, in the account given to Dr. Webster in 1755, the population stated at 392.
At

At this period, it does not exceed 320. This decrease is owing, in some measure, to the difficulty the poor find in procuring fuel; but mostly to the situation of the farms, which are generally, and at a less expense, managed by servants residing in the tenants houses, than by herds having houses and families of their own.

School.—There is a parish school, which is regularly taught; the salary of which is 8l. 6s. 8d., which, together with 3l. for collecting the poor's rates, and 1l. as precentor and session-clerk, makes the whole something above 12l. a year. The other emoluments are so small, that I do not think the present teacher, who is married, and has 5 children, 4 sons and 1 daughter, can draw more than 17l. He has a house, which, together with the school-house, has been this last season rebuilt, at a considerable expense; but there is no garden.

Stipend, &c.—The stipend annexed to the living, consists of 47l. some odd shillings, in money, 5l. 11s. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for communion elements, and 3 chalders of victual, 2 of meal and 1 of barley. No augmentation has taken place since the year 1655, when the decret was obtained from the Court of Session. The glebe, till within these few months, contained about 14 English acres, and the pasturage of 40 sheep upon a farm belonging to the Duke of Buccleugh. This pasturage has, by his Grace's goodness, been valued, and land set apart contiguous to the old glebe, by which it now consists of about 31 acres of the same measure. The church and manse are both old; and being nearly ruinous, stand much in need of repair.

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF WIGTON.

(COUNTY AND PRESEBYTERY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF
GALLOWAY.)

By the Rev. Mr. ANDREW DUNCAN.

Name.

THE parish of Wigton, by a natural and obvious idea, is denominated from the town, the place where the church was originally erected, and which contains the most of the parishioners. The name of the town itself is apparently Saxon, and seems to have arisen among that people, by whom Wigton was probably founded, in the 7th or 8th century, when they were masters of this part of the country. The name seems to have been taken from the local situation; though the precise signification and etymology of the word is rather uncertain. It is probably compounded of the two Saxon words, *wic*, a village, and *ton*, a hill; thus signifying, a town seated on an eminence, as Wigton strikingly is. Or, perhaps, it may be derived from *vik*, a corner, and *ton*, a hill, in the same language; alluding

alluding to the particular situation of the hill of Wigton, which lies in a corner between the river of Bladenoch and frith of Cree

Situation, and Extent.—This parish is bounded by the river Bladenoch, which separates it from the parish of Kirkinner, on the S. ; by a small rivulet and a morass, dividing it from the parish of Penningham, on the W. ; by the burn of the Causeway-end, otherwise called the Bishop-burn, which runs between it and the last mentioned parish, on the N. ; and by the bay of Wigton and frith of Cree, on the E. The figure is rather irregular, as in some places it indents, and in other places is indented by the surrounding parishes ; but, upon the whole, approaches most nearly to that of a long square. The greatest length, from E. to W., is between 5 and 6 English miles ; and the greatest breadth, from S. to N., almost 4 miles. The contents, according to the most accurate conjecture, may amount to about 5500 acres *.

Soil

* *Climate and Seasons.*—The climate of this place, which is situated between the 54th and 55th degree of N. latitude, though certainly rather cold, is not intemperate. The gentle breezes which arise from the sea, help to preserve the temperature of the air, and render the weather more moderate than could otherwise be expected in so northern a situation. Perhaps, the greatest defect of this climate, arising, no doubt, from the proximity of the sea, is an inconstancy of weather, to which this place is remarkably subject. The purity of the air, as well as the state of the weather, is affected by our insular situation. Being frequently loaded with vapours from the sea, it is at times damp and unwholesome ; but as it is often ventilated, and kept in motion by the wind, it is in general pretty pure and healthful. Besides these more general causes, there are two or three local circumstances, by which the climate is here more particularly affected. The stewartry hills, from their superior height, help to cover this place from the N. and E. wind ; the lesser hills, with which the parish itself abounds, afford a shelter to the plains below them ;
while

Soil and Surface.—In the parish of Wigton, though on so small extent, there is a considerable diversity of soil and surface. The southern side, which runs along the river Bladenoch, is interspersed with hills; which, though more inconvenient for agriculture, are all of them arable, and bear the same kinds of crop as the plains below them. The land on the tops, as well as that around the bottoms, is equal in fertility to the plains; but the sides, from which the earth is washed down by the rains, are less fertile; and the northern sides, from being more exposed to the cold, are found to be worse than the southern. The soil is here, both on the hills and plains, a dry, light, hazle mould, lying in some places on a bed of till, and in other places on a bed of gravel. As it is in general thin, it is soon affected by drought, and agrees best with a showery season, especially till about mid-summer; after which time, the ground

while the running streams, which almost surround it, carry off the superfluous water from the land, and the moisture from the air.

We have here all the four seasons in vicissitude, though they are rather irregular in their course. The spring season almost never begins till after the vernal equinox, sometimes not till towards the middle of April, and soon after it is set in, it is almost always checked by an easterly wind, which rises about the end of April, and, continuing for 10 or 12 days, scorches the fields. Not only during the time of this wind, but afterwards in the month of May, and even in the beginning of June, there are frequently frosts by night, which check vegetation. The summer season generally commences about the time of the solstice, and our warmest weather is in the months of July and August. The heat afterwards subsiding, during the whole of September, and the first half of October, which forms the time of harvest here, we have the most agreeable weather in the course of the year. Frost and snow almost never set in till towards Christmas, or even new-year's day. The snow, except when it happens to be frozen, never lies long, seldom above two or three days, frequently not longer than as many hours. Neither does frost generally continue long; though, in some years, for a considerable time, even for the space of some weeks.

ground being completely covered with the crop, it is not so soon affected:

In the N. W. end of the parish, the face of the ground is still more diversified. A considerable part of this tract, upwards of 1000 acres, consisting of moor and moss, is incapable of tillage. In the arable ground, which consists chiefly of hills scattered amidst the moor and moss, the soil is coarser, and less productive. But this arises, not so much from an original difference in the nature of the land, as from the want of improvement: For the soil is here much of the same quality, agrees with the same kind of season, and when well improved, produces the same kinds of grain, as that formerly described.

The N. E. part of the parish, lying along the Bishopburn, is of a soil and surface different from both the former. This tract, of about 2 miles in length, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, bears all the marks of having been once covered by the sea. It is almost one continued level, and lies far lower than the rest of the parish, perhaps 200 feet below the tops of the adjacent hills. The soil, as well as the bed on which it rests, consists of a kind of sea sleet, condensed into a hard substance, intermixed with shells, formed in strata, and of great depth. In a subsequent period, and long after the sea had receded, this tract must have been covered with trees; the trunks of which are still found, in great numbers, interspersed over the whole of it. They consist of various kinds, but mostly of oak, many of them between 30 and 40 feet long, and lying generally in the same direction, as having been felled by the west wind, which is the most violent in this place. A great part of this tract, perhaps the half of it, is still covered with moss; which seems to have been formerly much more extensive, a considerable deal of it having been cleared away within

the memory of man. The moss, from which the town and neighbourhood of Wigton have been long supplied with fuel, is from 5 to 10 feet deep; under which, and lying on the clay surface, the trees are mostly now found. The parts which are not covered with moss, are all of them arable, and laboured as well as the rest of the parish. The crops, however, are not equal to those on the high land; and either in a very wet, or in a very dry season, they are exceedingly bad.

Property.—Property is better divided in this parish than in most others around. The town of Wigton, which once held extensive possessions, has still the property of a little land, and the superiority of several farms. Exclusive of the town, there are 6 principal heritors, none of whom reside within the parish. Besides these, there are about 20 small proprietors, who possess pieces of land on the hill of Wigton, called Borough-acres, in different proportions, from 20 down to 2 or 3 acres; most of whom reside within the town.

Extent of Farms.—All the land in the parish, except the generality of the borough-acres, is let to tenants, who are a substantial set of men. An increase of farms naturally arose with the spirit of improvement, and they are now become much larger, than when the tenants were in a condition of abject poverty, and the lands in an uncultivated state. The same extent which was farmed by 2, or even by 4 tenants, is now generally held by 1. And there is a particular farm in the parish, now occupied by 2 men, which formerly contained 12 tenants. There are 2 men here, who pay upwards of 200l. Sterling of yearly rent; 1 who pays about 150l.; 3 who pay more than

100l;

1001.; 9 who pay above 50l.; besides several lesser tenants, who subsist not entirely by farming.

Enclosing.—Till of late, this parish, as indeed all the rest of the country, formed one continued open. A few farms, which were then in the hands of the proprietors, were enclosed about 50 years ago. But it is not much above 20 years since enclosing became general, during which time it has been carried on with spirit. Every farm in the parish is now enclosed, and most of them divided; those on dry land with stone walls, and those on the wet land with ditches. Even the borough-acres, which, till of late, were all of them open, and during the winter half of the year formed an absolute common, are now almost wholly enclosed; and the hill of Wigton, which contains about 200 Scotch acres, exhibits between 60 and 70 enclosures.

Manure.—It is but between 20 and 30 years ago, that the spirit of agriculture arose in this parish. The improvement of land began in the eastern end, which lies nearest to the shore; and being carried gradually forward, has now reached the most western extremity. A few farms, however, in the western end, are still partly in their natural state; but as the tenants are now employed in improving them, they will soon be in the same condition with the rest, and all the arable land in the parish in a state of improvement. In the eastern end, where the carriage would admit of it, the manure chiefly used was that of shells, the effects of which are found to be the most lasting; but in the western end, on account of the distance from the shore, lime has been mostly used. The shells are brought from the neighbourhood of Creeton, on the

opposite side of this bay. At the port of Wigton, they cost, according to their different qualities, from 1 s. 4 d. to 1 s. 6 d. the ton, which consists of 21 bushels; and from 20 to 25 tons are laid on an acre. The lime comes from England: the Carlisle bushel, which is equal to 3 Winchester, costs 1 s. 2 d. at the port; and from 40 to 50 of these are allowed to an acre.

Utensils.—Thirty-four ploughs, 60 pair of harrows, and 66 carts, are at present employed within this parish, for the purposes of agriculture. Several improvements have been introduced into the use of these instruments. The plough, which formerly employed 2 men and 4 horses, is now managed by 1 man, and drawn by 2 horses; though, in breaking up stiff ground, 3 horses, and even sometimes 4, together with a driver, are still employed. Over all the hard land in the parish, the common Scotch plough is used, which agrees best with the nature of the soil, it being in general very stony; but the English plough is used in the soft land. A pair of harrows are drawn by 2 horses, or, when made lighter on purpose, sometimes by 1; the old timber tines, by which the ground was exceedingly ill harrowed, are exchanged for those of iron; and the harrows themselves, which were formerly loose, and constantly interfering, are now coupled together. It is not above 40 years since carts were introduced into this parish. The double horse carts, which prevailed for some time, are now generally laid aside; and single horse carts, the preference of which is universally seen, are substituted in their place.

Crops.—While the land was in its natural state, oats were almost the only, as they still are the principal crop,

In the parish of Wigton. The grain produced then, was of an inferior kind, called grey oats; the ordinary produce was from 2½ to 3 seeds; and the boll (which consists of 12 bushels) produced generally no more than 8 stone of meal. Since the application of manure, the oats have been improved into the best kind; the produce is from 4½ to 5 seeds, sometimes to 6; and the boll, when made into meal, rises generally to 12, sometimes to 13, or even 14 stone. Oats are sown from the 10th of March to the middle of April, and reaped from the 1st of September to the middle of October. No bear was formerly raised in this parish, except in the borough-acres. A considerable quantity is now sown, especially in the eastern end, and the produce is from 8 to 10 seeds. It is sown towards the end of April, and reaped towards the end of August. Within these few years, a little wheat has been raised in the neighbourhood of the town of Wigton. It is sown after a green crop, and has been found to answer well. The average sowing of the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is that of 500 bolls of oats, and 50 bolls of bear; and allowing almost the half of the produce of oats, and about an eighth of the produce of bear, for seed, and consumption in the farmers families, the rest of the crop remains to be sold. A part of that for sale, especially of the oats, is made into meal, and sold in the market of Wigton; but the bulk of it is exported to Whitehaven or Liverpool, to Ayr, Irvine, or Greenock.

Green Crops.—The method of improvement by green crops, has as yet made little progress here. In a few farms around the town of Wigton, crops of potatoes have, for some time past, been raised; but the farmers over the rest of the parish, raise no more than are sufficient for the consumption

consumption of their own families. The produce of potatoes is various, according to the difference of soil and season, from 12 to 20 seeds; and a crop of them, when they turn out well, far exceeds in value one of oats. They are planted in drills, laid down in the end of April or beginning of May, and taken up in the end of October. Turnips are cultivated only by one farmer in the parish; who introduced them a few years ago. They are sown in drills with a drill barrow, in the end of June and beginning of July; and the light dry soil being well adapted for turnips, the crops have proved remarkably good. Milch-cows are partly, but young cattle are chiefly, fed with them in winter.

Grass Seeds.—With respect to the quantity of tillage, the tenants are universally restricted to the third of the arable land; and the ordinary course is that of 3 years in crop, and 6 in grass; or when a green crop intervenes, 2 crops of oats before it, 1 of barley after it, and 6 years in grass. Over all the improved land in the parish, the fields are sown out with clover and rye grass; though in the low soft ground, where natural clover grows in profusion, rye grass only is generally sown. The quantity allowed by the best farmers to the acre, is about a bushel of English rye grass, or a bushel and a half of Scotch, and 12 pound of clover, generally two-thirds of it red, and one-third of it white; less of the white being sown, because the ground of itself soon produces a good deal of it. But the generality of the tenants, from a foolish economy, give much less to the acre, especially of the clover.

Stock.—In this parish, as over all the rest of the country, the breed of horses has been greatly improved. The little gallows, the native produce of this place, are totally

tally worn out; and a breed much larger, and abler for the purposes of agriculture, brought originally from the W. of Scotland, has been introduced. A few young horses are annually reared in this parish, partly for sale, and partly for private use. The breed of black cattle has also been much enlarged, the size having been improved by the keeping. Considerably more are at present reared, than fed within this parish, especially as 2 or 3 farms in it have been of late thrown almost wholly into grass. Both they which are bred, and they which are bought in, are kept till they are 2 years old, and, in a few farms, till they be 3; when they are sold out into grazing parks, to be fattened for slaughter. The produce of a milch cow, in the neighbourhood of the town of Wigton, is worth 4*l.* a year; but over the rest of the parish, scarcely worth more than 3*l.*, allowing 40*s.* for the calf, and 20*s.* for the milk. Almost no sheep are kept in the parish, except in a few moory farms in the N. W. end of it. These are the common Scotch sheep, white on the body, and generally black on the face and legs. The very few in the rest of the parish, are either of the mug kind, or of a cross breed between the mug and the common kind, which answers exceedingly well. Almost every farmer in the parish keeps a swine or two for the use of his own family.

Rent.—Arable land is let at various rates, according to its quality and state of improvement, from 10*s.* to 20*s.* the acre; some of it, in the neighbourhood of the town, at almost 30*s.*; and such of the borough-acres as are let, from 50*s.* even to 3*l.* the acre. Upon the whole, from the successive rise of markets, and the improvement of land, the rent of this parish, within these last 60 years, has prodigiously increased. In the year 1733, as appears from
authentick

authentick documents, it was not much above 400l. Sterling; whereas, in the year 1793, from an account pretty accurately taken, it is found to be almost as much above 2000l. The valuation of the parish is no more than 1602l. 14s. Scots. The valued bears the less proportion to the real rent, as 4 or 5 of the best farms, which hold burgage of the town of Wigton, are not included in the valuation.

Population.—The population of this parish, within the last 40 years, has greatly increased. In the year 1755, the number of inhabitants, according to Dr. Webster's account, was no more than 1032. In 1793, from an enumeration taken by the present incumbent, they were found to amount to 1350. None of this increase belongs to the country part of the parish, the population of which, far from being increased, is diminished. It belongs wholly to the town; and though, perhaps, owing partly to the growth of opulence, has arisen chiefly from two other causes; from the enlargement of farms, which has led many families which resided in the country, to settle in the town; and from the influx of people from Ireland, who are scattered over the whole of this county, and of whom above 100 at present reside within the town of Wigton. As a register of marriages, of births, and burials, has not been kept, for a considerable time past, the annual number of these cannot be precisely ascertained. The marriages, however, are generally prolific, and the number of births to each of them, may, on an average, be rated at 6.

Health.—The salubrity of this place appears from the health of its inhabitants. The town of Wigton, from its high, open, and marine situation, is naturally healthful;
and

and the people in the country, from their occupations and habits of life, are generally strong and healthy. Rheumatism is the complaint most incident to this place, especially among the poorer sort, arising, no doubt, chiefly from the coldness and dampness of their houses. But no local nor epidemical distempers are experienced here; and it has been remarked, that fevers are much less frequent in this, than in some of the neighbouring parishes. They who escape the dangers of infancy and childhood, except such as are afterwards carried off by accidents, generally live to the ordinary period of human life. Nor are instances of longevity unfrequent. Three persons died here lately, 2 of whom were more than ninety, and 1 above an 100 years of age; 30 or 40 are now alive, some of whom are upwards of 70, and others more than 80; and there is a woman at present living in this town, who has children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren, all in existence.

Condition.—The condition of the people, especially since about the middle of this century, has been greatly improved. In point of lodging, of dress, and diet, a material alteration has taken place*.

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Character.

* The miserable huts, in which the common people were formerly lodged, have now generally disappeared; and in their place more comfortable houses, and much better furniture, are now to be seen. The old dress of the country men, even of the most respectable farmers, a kilt coat, a blue bonnet, and plaiding hose, have been totally laid aside; and the lowest of the people, even the men servants themselves, on publick occasions, appear now in hats, in coats of broad cloth, in cotton vests and breeches, and generally with watches in their pockets. The old dress, too, of the country women, even of the farmers wives and daughters, the blue cloth cloaks and hoods, the tartan or red plaids, and the worsted gowns and aprons of their own spinning, are also gone almost

Character.—In the character, as well as the condition of the people, the progress of society is very observable. By a much better education, and a more enlarged intercourse than our ancestors enjoyed, the human mind has been considerably opened; and they of this generation, in a variety of respects, excel those of the last. The spirit of credulity, which arises out of ignorance, and which over-ran the country, is now greatly worn away; and the belief in witches, in fairies, and other ideal beings, though not entirely discarded, is gradually dying out. Much of the rusticity has been rubbed off; more taste, and a better manner and address prevail, except perhaps among the very meanest

most wholly into disuse; and the very servant maids, when they appear abroad, are dressed now in silk cloaks and bonnets, in dressed caps, and printed cotton gowns, muslin aprons, thread stockings, and cloth shoes. Almost no beef, and very little mutton, was formerly used by the common people; generally no more than a sheep or two, which was killed about Martinmas, and salted up for the provision of the family during the year. Though the practice of salting up meat is still continued, both in the town and country, yet beef and mutton are now almost constantly sold in the market, and all who can afford it, eat fresh meat through the whole course of the year. So little wheat bread was used in the town of Wigton, about 40 years ago, that one baker could not find sufficient employment; whereas the use of it is now become so general, that there are four or five bakers in town, by each of whom a considerable quantity is sold. Neither tea nor sugar were used in this place, except in a very few families in town, and very little of them even there: these articles are now constantly used by all who can afford them, both in town and country, and occasionally by the meanest of the people. Upon the whole, the better sort of the inhabitants in the town, now generally occupy pretty good houses, and live rather in a genteel style; the tenants, in the country part of the parish, though few of them rich, are generally substantial, and in easy circumstances; and among the tradesmen and day-labourers, they who are industrious, earn the necessaries of life. It must, however, be confessed, that many of them are still in an indigent state; as almost all the Irish families which have settled here, are in a condition of abject poverty.

meanest of the people. The ancient spirit of mirth, which arose out of the idle state of society, is almost entirely extinguished; and in the active pursuits of life, men have acquired more gravity of mind, and more solidity of conduct. Servility of mind, the natural consequence of poverty and oppression, has lost much of its hold here; and a spirit of independence, in the progress of opulence, has arisen, especially among the more substantial part of the people. An attention to publick affairs, a thing formerly unknown among the lower ranks, pretty generally prevails now. Not only the farmers, but many of the tradesmen, read the newspapers, and take an interest in the measures of government.

Morals.—However some may declaim against the vices of the age, it is pretty certain, that good morals have, in several respects, rather gained than lost ground here. The violence of our ancestors, which frequently broke out into acts of outrage, has exceedingly subsided; and, under the influence of a regular government, gentler passions, and more peaceable manners, have been gradually infused into the people. The inhabitants of this parish, with the exception of a very few individuals, are distinguished for temperance; and it is a well known fact, that there is much less drunkenness and dissipation in the town of Wigton, than there was 40 or 50 years ago. An attendance on the public institutions of religion, though it cannot be called exemplary, is however pretty decent, especially among the better sort of the people; the old foolish taste for long services, is almost quite worn away; and the vile spirit of acrimony, arising from difference in religious opinions, seems to be totally gone. The people in general, when called to exercise it, discover a due sense of bene-

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volence;

volence ; and the liberality of individuals, on various occasions, is a fact which consists with the knowledge of the writer of this account.

Church.—The parish church, which stands at the N. E. end of the town, was mostly rebuilt in 1730 ; and, about 24 years ago, was completely repaired within. The patronage and teinds, some time after the Reformation, were given away by the Crown to the family of Vans of Barnbarroch ; and transferred by them, towards the middle of the last century, into the family of the Earl of Galloway, who is still both patron and titular. The stipend consists of 72*l.* in money, and 4 chalders of victual, 2 of them in barley, and 2 in meal. The glebe consists of about 7 acres, and, from its vicinity to the town, is worth 14*l.* yearly. There is neither a manse nor office-houses here, but an allowance of 12*l.* a year for manse rent. The total amount of the living, made up of these several particulars, is about 140*l.* Sterling.

Poor.—The number of poor on the parish roll, is always upwards of 40. The funds for their maintenance arise partly from the interest of money appropriated to that purpose, and partly from the weekly collections at the door of the church. The total amount, of about 40*l.* a year, is divided quarterly by the kirk-session, among the poor, according to their several necessities. They all reside within their own houses, and earn a part of their own subsistence. But the maintenance of their own poor, is not the only burden of this kind on the parish. The place is infested by swarms of strolling beggars ; the law for restraining them never being put in execution either in the town or country.

School.

School.—There is a good grammar school in the town of Wigton, which is conducted by a rector and an assistant. The emoluments, consisting of salary and wages, amount to about 60*l.* Sterling a year. The salary itself is 30*l.*, of which 24*l.* are paid by the town, and the rest by the heritors. The number of scholars is from 60 to 100, who are taught Latin and Greek, English and writing, arithmetick and book-keeping. All children, even those of the poorest people, are instructed in reading English, in writing, and the common rules of arithmetick.

Fuel.—The principal disadvantage under which this part of the country labours, and the great bar to the introduction of manufactures, is the want of coal. The common people, both in the town and country, burn peat, of which indeed there is abundance within this parish. The better sort of inhabitants in the town, though they also use peat in their kitchens, burn coal in their rooms. It is brought from the opposite coast of England, especially from Whitehaven and Liverpool; the ton, which contains 32 Winchester bushels, cost lately a guinea at the port of Wigton; but, by the late act of parliament, which took off the duty, the price of the ton has been reduced to 15*s.* or 16*s.*

Manufactures.—In the town of Wigton, as in almost all the other towns of Galloway, there has long been a want of industry. Something of a manufacturing spirit, however, having lately arisen in this part of the country, two small manufactures, the one of wool and the other of cotton, were introduced into this town, about a year and a half ago. In the former of these, which employs between 30 and 40 persons, the wool is manufactured into plaiding
and

and flannel, especially the former, and sent mostly to the English market. The latter, which would have employed about 20 persons, was soon hurt after its commencement, and is now almost entirely ruined, by the iniquity of the times.

Fishing.—There is a small salmon fishing in the river of Bladenoch, the rent of which has successively risen from 9l. to 16l., from 16l. to 24l., and from 24l. to 33l. Sterling. The salmon are not large; they are taken from the beginning of March to that of October, and are in greatest perfection in June and July. They are generally sold when they begin to be taken, at 4d., and afterwards at 3d. the lb. The inhabitants of Wigton have the privilege of fishing salmon in a particular part of the water of Cree, opposite to the town itself; and the fish taken there, which are not very many, are much of the same size, caught at the same time, and sold at the same price, as those already mentioned. Various kinds of white fish, especially flounders, are taken in the bay of Wigton. The fishing, it is thought, might be turned to considerable account, but is very little attended to.

Roads and Bridges.—The statute-labour, by which the roads were formerly made, was lately, by act of parliament, converted into money. The maximum, which has hitherto been collected, is that of 15s. for each 100l. Scotch of valuation, and half a crown for each labourer and tradesman in the year. With this fund, the roads are getting fast into a state of repair, and are let to be kept so for 10 years. The bridges in the parish are upheld from the county funds, and are in excellent order.

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—The most remarkable monument of antiquity in the parish, is that in the western end of it, called the *Standing Stones of Torhouse*. It is one of those circles of large stones, by some thought Druidic temples, by others reckoned courts of justice. The stones which form the circle, are 19 in number, all of unpolished granite; and all of them still standing erect, as they have been originally placed, except one, which is fallen down. They are of various sizes, as they have been formed by the hand of Nature; from 2 to 5 feet in length, and from 4 to 9 feet in girth. The distances of the stones are also very different, from 5 to almost 12 feet; and the circumference of the circle, on the outward side of the stones, is 218 feet. Within the circle, though not quite in the centre, but toward the S. side, stand 3 large stones, erected in a straight line from E. to W., of which the 2 outward are about 5, and the middle one about 3 feet high; the altar, in all probability, on which sacrifice was offered, before the dispensation of justice, as in Pagan times the judge was always a priest. Southward from the circle, at the distance of 43 yards, stands a large single stone; and eastward from the circle, at the distance of about 160 yards, stand 3 stones, erected in a line from E. to W.; both of which probably bore some relation to the temple or court of justice. Directly to the N., are 2 cairns or barrows of stones, the nearest at the distance of about 140 yards, the farthest at about 166. The circumference of the former is about 240 feet; but the most part of it has been carried away to build the fences of the adjacent grounds. The latter is entire, the figure quite conic; the circumference at the base about 256 feet, and the height about 12 feet.

STATISTICAL TABLE of the INHABITANTS of the Parish of
Wigton.

Population in 1755,	1032	Smiths,	-	-	3
————— 1793,	1350	Masons,	-	-	11
In the town,	1032	Carpenters,	-	-	16
—— country,	318	Weavers,	-	-	25
Males,	637	Shoemakers,	-	-	14
Females,	713	Tailors,	-	-	15
Under 10 years,	301	Coopers,	-	-	3
Between 10 and 20,	257	Staymaker,	-	-	1
—— 20 and 50,	499	Stocking weaver,	-	-	1
—— 50 and 70,	250	Flaxdresser,	-	-	1
Above 70,	37	Apprentices,	-	-	24
Married,	434	Butchers,	-	-	2
Bachelors above 21,	96	Bakers,	-	-	4
Unmarried women at 21,	157	Millers,	-	-	2
Widowers,	26	Tanner,	-	-	1
Widows,	79	Maltmen,	-	-	2
Seceders,	191	Seamen,	-	-	12
Cameronians,	27	Fishermen,	-	-	16
Irish, or of Irish parents,	146	Carters,	-	-	18
Clergymen,	2	Carriers,	-	-	2
Surgeons,	2	Farmers above 50L.	-	-	15
Writers,	5	—— under 50l.	-	-	22
Messengers,	4	Cottagers,	-	-	10
Shopkeepers,	16	Day labourers,	-	-	62
Innkeepers,	6	Male domestick servants,	-	-	2
Watchmakers,	2	Female domestick servants,	-	-	54
Gardeners,	3	Male farm servants,	-	-	30
Dyers,	2	Female farm servants,	-	-	26
Saddlers,	2				

N. B. Some of the above are not wholly employed in their own line, the fishermen only occasionally.

STATISTICAL

STATISTICAL TABLE of the STOCK of the Parish of Wigton.

Number of draught horses,	120	valued at L. 12	0 each.	Total L. 1440
Of saddle and carriage horses,	10	15	0	150
Of best cattle,	350	6	0	2100
Inferior cattle,	300	4	0	1200
Worst cattle,	300	2	0	600
Of best sheep,	100	1	0	100
Inferior sheep,	1000	0	10	500
Of swine,	50	2	0	100
Total value of stock,				L. 6190

STATISTICAL TABLE of the ANNUAL PRODUCE of the Parish of Wigton.

Crops.	Aeres under produce.	Each acre.	Total produce.	Price each boll.	Price each acre.	Total value.
		Bolls.	Bolls.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s.
Oats,	700	3	2100	1 1 0	3 3 0	2205 0
Bear,	120	3	360	1 10 0	4 10 0	540 0
Wheat,	20	3	60	3 0 0	9 0 0	180 0
Potatoes,	40	15	600	0 8 0	6 0 0	240 0
Turnips,	10				4 0 0	40 0
		stones.	stones.	a stone.		
Meadow hay,	200	80	16000	0 0 3	1 0 0	200 0
Sown grafs,	150	100	15000	0 0 6	2 10 0	375 0
Straw at 2s. 6d. each boll of corn,				-		315 0
Pasturage, for a horse, 3l. ; for a cow, 1l. 10s. ; and for a sheep, 5s.				-		2090 0
Annual produce of fisheries,				-		200 0
Of gardens and orchards,				-		150 0
Total value of annual produce,						L. 6535 0

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF OLD LUCE.

(COUNTY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY, PRESBY-
TERY OF STRANRAER.)

By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM LEARMONT

Name, Extent, &c.

PEOPLE, who understand the Gaelic language, say, that the name Glenluce is Erse, and signifies Valley of Herbs; and that almost all the names of the farms are likewise Erse, as *Auchenmalg, Craignargit, Balkail, Duxragget*, &c.; which is a proof, that the Gaelic has formerly been the language of the country, though not a word of it is now understood by the inhabitants. Glenluce was divided into Old and New Luce in 1646.—Old Luce is situated in the centre of the county; the promontories of the Mull of Galloway and Burrow-head of Whithorn, within which the bay of Luce lies, being nearly equidistant from it. It is 10 miles long, and varies in breadth, from 2 to 7, being deeply intersected by the bay of Luce on the one side, and the parish of New Luce upon the other. It is bounded by the sea upon the S. The bay of Auchenmalg,

enmalg, the bay of Kirk-Christ, and the small river of Pooltanton, which unites with the river of Luce within high-water mark, are the landing ports. The bay of Auchenmalg might, at no great expense, be made a very safe harbour for vessels of considerable burden; but there is not sufficient depth of water in Pooltanton for vessels above 60 or 70 tons to get into a place of safety, even at the highest spring tides, and perhaps it would not be practicable to make it better; but it is the best of the three at present, for the other two afford no protection in a strong gale of wind from the S.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—About one half of the parish is not arable, but it produces pasture for sheep and cattle. The arable part of the soil is dry, light, and grateful, when properly managed; but the spirit of improvement was very late in making its appearance in this parish; for within these 20 years, only 1 farmer or 2 had a cart: at present, every man has a cart or carts, in proportion to the extent of his farm.—A common round of labour which had taken place, was till lately invariably pursued, viz. there was a bear fey, or piece of sand allotted for bear, upon which the dung collected in the farm was annually laid, and laboured from time immemorial. The crop was a mixture of weak bear and gray oats. The oat-lands received no manure (the partial spots excepted, on which the cattle and sheep were folded through the night in summer), were laboured 3 years, and rested 6: the produce was gray oats, of which a Winchester bushel would only have yielded 6 lb. of meal; or if it gave a pound or two more, it was thought remarkably good grain*.

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different

* Agriculture appears to have been better understood in the last century than in the present; for wheat and barley (*hordeump*) are then mentioned amongst the

different method of management is beginning to give a very different appearance to the arable part of the parish. Poor pasture is annually giving place to fields covered with clover and rye-grass; and gray oats are succeeded by white, which return double the quantity of meal. There is, however, something in the nature of the soil which tends to degenerate oats; for white oats will, in the course of 5 years, have a mixture of gray, even when kept upon the best improved land. An annual change of seed, from wet to dry land, and *vice versa*, was tried, but did not succeed above 7 years: the 8th year, there was a small quantity of gray; and the 9th, there was at least one-third gray oats, though the land on which the experiment was made in the 8th and 9th years was in as good heart as any of it had been in the preceding years. The frequent change of seed from a deeper soil, is, perhaps, the only certain method by which the loss arising from gray oats can be avoided. The means of improvement is lime imported from England, and sea-shells from the bay of Wigton. The shells succeed well; but, from the expense of labour, 20 tons at least being required to an acre, it is only those who are near the landing ports who have tried them. In 1790, about 16,000 Carlisle bushels of lime were landed in the different ports. A Carlisle bushel is equal to 3 Winchester's; and 50 Carlisle bushels of unslacked lime has hitherto been considered as a proper quantity for 1 acre; but from 40 to 45 bushels, according to the nature of the soil, with a proportional dressing upon a second going round, would, in all probability, answer the purpose better; for upon this coast, so subject to wet seasons, the almost invariable consequence, from the 50 bushels

the prestations to the Abbey of Glenluce. One farm which, 20 years ago, was thought high-rented at 22l. a-year, then paid 12 bolls of each.

busbels has been a great quantity of lodged oats, improperly filled, and the straw, so necessary in a cattle country, fit only for the dunghill. The lime is 1s. 2d. the Carlisle bushel; and, for some years past, the import has been nearly the same as in 1790; and only about 1000 bushels of it might annually go to the adjacent parishes. —The arable farms are all enclosed, and the improvement of farm houses is going hand in hand with the improvement of land. So late as 1780, they were, almost without exception, miserable hovels. Since that time, above 20 have been built, all of them good, and many of them very good; having not only the farm house, but the offices, with slated roofs, and many have been enlarged, repaired, and rendered more comfortable habitations for men.

Before improvement began, the grain raised in the parish served the inhabitants. The effects of the scarce years, 1782 and 1783, though improvement had then made small progress, were little felt: The meal did not rise above 2s. the stone. At that time, the parish could do little more than supply itself; but in 1790, it exported 400 bolls of oats, 12 Winchester bushels to the boll; and 400 bolls of meal, 16 stone of 17½ lb. making the boll. Wheat and bear cannot be ranked amongst the present exports of the parish, but tracks of them are under cultivation, by different farmers, this season.

Cattle, Sheep, &c.—The farmers great dependence being placed upon black cattle, one great object of improvement is, to produce good pasture. Grain is cheaper here than in a manufacturing country: the Galloway boll of oats giving, in this parish, *communibus annis*, 1l. 1s.; meal, 1s. 8d. the stone; and potatoes, 8d. the bushel.

The farmers attention will therefore be necessarily turned to his cattle, which in general sell well. From 800 to 900 black cattle, of different ages and descriptions, are annually sold, including what is bred, and what is bought in, and kept from 6 to 12 months or more upon the pasture; about 600 sheep; 150 swine; and 50 packs of wool, each pack containing 12 stone, and 26 lb. English making the stone. The sheep go all to the butcher, and the black cattle to England, or other parts of Scotland to be prepared for them; for very few are fattened in the parish, except for private use. The average value of the black cattle sold is about 4l. Sterling each; sheep, 9l. the score; and wool, 12s. the stone.—There may be about 400 horse in the parish. A few of the farmers have adopted lately the wise plan of breeding horse; and it is to be hoped, that the practice will soon become general, as they are supplied at present from Ireland at a great expense.

A rabbit warren deserves to be mentioned amongst the animal productions: it is rented at 100l. a year. The skins go to the English market, and the carcases are sold in the country at 4d. the pair.

Fish, &c.—A considerable salmon fishery is carried on in the rivers of Luce and Pooltanton. Both rivers are late; clean fish seldom appearing in either of them before the end of May, and never, in any great quantity, before the end of June or middle of July; but the fishing continues to the 27th of September. Though the rivers unite at their entrance into the bay, and have a common channel to low-water mark, yet the fish of the one river are easily distinguished by their colour from those of the other;

other; and the river in which they were bred is the one they return to; a fish originally belonging to the one, being very seldom met with in the other. They are sold at 2d. the lb., if above 10 lb. weight; if 10 lb. or below it, at 1d. the lb.—Great plenty of sea trout, of different kinds, weighing from 1 lb. to 5 lb. or 6 lb., are met with in both rivers, from the beginning to the end of the salmon fishing season; and the bay of Luce, along the whole coast of the parish, abounds with fish: but no attempt hath hitherto been made to turn them to any account. The inhabitants having no absolute demand for them as a necessary of life, and no market near them, for no manufactures are established in the parish, they never think of profiting by the blessings which Providence has put in their power.

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 1509. Old Luce, on the 1st of January 1791, contained 1200 inhabitants, old and young. An accurate enumeration was likewise made in 1778, which amounted to 1275.

From the baptisms entered in the parish register, which begins in 1732, it appears, that the population has been decreasing since the year 1755, and perhaps before that period; but as there is no rule by which it can be traced, this cannot be certainly known.

	<i>Baptisms.</i>
From 1732 to 1755,	830
Increase of births over burials in this period,	261
From 1755 to 1778,	706
Increase of births over burials in this period,	267
The last 23 years fall short of the first,	124
though the increase of baptisms be considerable. The	emigration

emigration to America was, in this parish, confined to 15 men, 7 women, and 7 children. The village of Glenluce has since 1732 increased from 2 or 3 to 40 families; and two-thirds of that increase has been since 1776, and yet the depopulation has still gone on*.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and BURIALS, entered in the Parish Register, from 1st January 1788 to 1st January 1791.

YEARS,	MARRIAGES, BIRTHS.		DEATHS.	
			12 years and above,	under 12 years.
1778,	9	35	10	—
1779,	10	37	18	2
1780,	6	33	17	2
1781,	7	35	14	9
1782,	7	22	21	6
1783,	5	30	12	1
1784,	12	21	15	12
1785,	4	27	9	1
1786,	10	23	10	1
1787,	4	19	16	1
1788,	7	30	11	1
1789,	8	32	12	8
1790,	7	28	15	7
	<hr/> 96	<hr/> 372	<hr/> 130	<hr/> 51
Increase of births over burials,			-	91
Males baptised in the preceding 13 years,				193
Females ditto			ditto	173

Rent,

* From the preceding state, and the return made to Dr. Webster of the population of Old Luce in 1755, being 1509 souls, it is evident, that there has been some continued cause of depopulation. Indeed, two causes may be assigned, and the first is; that, previous to 1755, the arable part of the parish was parcelled out into small farms; and since that period, there

Rent, Heritors, Stipend, &c.—The valued rent of the parish is 599l. 15s. Scots, and the real rent about 3500l. Sterling. There are 9 heritors, 5 of whom have houses, in which some of them reside constantly, and others occasionally.

The church is too small for the inhabitants, but tolerably well finished, and in good repair. The King is patron. The stipend, by an augmentation lately obtained, is about 100l. The manse was built about 50 years ago, and is a large and good house. The glebe has evidently been the garden of the abbey, and contains exactly 12 acres, including the ruins, manse, and present garden. The ruins, notwithstanding the immense quantities carried away, still cover, or render of no value, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre of the glebe.

The abbey was founded in the year 1190 *; and it appears from the ruins, to have been a very extensive build-

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ing;

there has been a progressive union of two or more of these. This has lessened considerably the number of farmers. But, besides the division of land into small farms, there was, in general, a farm servant upon each of them, called a cottar or worker, who had a house, with a wife and family. The number of these diminished, of course, with the enlargement of farms; and their number has again decreased in consequence of the farmers preferring unmarried servants, in their families, to the cottar in his own house. The enclosing of land has likewise contributed, in part, to the depopulation, by rendering herds, who generally had wives and families, altogether unnecessary. These causes have occasioned the depopulation; and unless manufactures be introduced, there is no probability that the population will increase, while the mode of large farms continues.

* The monks were of the Cistercian order; and a Thomas Hay was appointed commendator so late as 1560. The Pope's bull, dated at Rome, 2d May 1560, appointing him, Commendator Vallis Lucis atque de Glenluc; is still in the possession of the commendator's family, in this parish, Sir Thomas Hay of Park, Baronet.

ing ; but all that now remains entire is a small apartment upon the E. side of the square, within which the cloisters have stood. In the middle of the apartment is a pillar, about 14 feet high, from which 8 arches spring, and have their terminations in the surrounding walls : The centre of every arch is ornamented with foliage and different figures, remarkably well cut in coarse free stone. From the solidity of the workmanship which remains, a probable conclusion may be drawn, that the hand of time would never have overturned it ; neither had the zeal of the good people in Galloway for Reformation extended to those walls, even though they had contained Roman Catholics ; for it had remained for near 100 years after the Reformation, without suffering any material injury *. But liberty had, after that time, been given by the incumbents to the people to pick out the free stone, which brought it to ruins. The pillar, which is much admired for its just proportions, has escaped the general destruction, either from the difficulty of removing the rubbish which had fallen upon the arches, or the danger of its burying the depredators in its ruins, had any attempt been made below the arches to pull it down.

School and Poor.—The schoolmaster's salary is 8*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, which, with the wages, perquisites as session-clerk, and 1*l.* Sterling annually from a mortification by Mr. James Tweddale senior, formerly minister of Old Luce, for the education

* The deed by which the commendator conveyed his lands to his friend, Hay of Park, is thus concluded : Datum meo Monasterio, 14th Maii 1572. It must, therefore, have escaped the common ruin in which, 22 or 23 years before, abbeys, cathedrals, and churches, in other parts of Scotland, had perished. It appears, from the records of the presbytery of Stranraer, that the building was almost entire at the division of the parish in 1646.

education of 4 poor children, may amount to 25*l.* Sterling a-year. The number of scholars, at an average, will be about 50. Two private schools are likewise generally kept, for the winter months, in different parts of the parish, and the number of scholars at each about 30.—The poor are not numerous, and seldom beg. The funds for their maintenance are the weekly collections at church, which some years fall under, but seldom exceed, 15*l.* Sterling.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There is little flat or low lying land; but none of the hills rise to any considerable height, except 3, and the highest of these does not exceed 200 feet above the level of the sea. The Knock, the smallest in circumference, is of a sharp conical figure, and a small space at the top has been surrounded with a stone wall, the vestiges of which are still visible. It probably has been a place of refuge, in the turbulent days of our predecessors, where a handful of determined men, previous to the use of fire arms, might have bid defiance for a long time to thousands.

Many tumuli, or cairns of stones, are still remaining, though the building of fences and clearing of fields, has reduced their number considerably. There cannot be a doubt of their being monuments erected over the ashes of the dead; for in all of them that have been opened, there has been found, it is said, an urn, enclosed in stones, in the form of an oblong square, about the middle of the cairn: but there was lately found, near the outside of one which had been carried away almost level with the surface of the field, 6 earthen pots, resembling urns, alternately ranged in the earth, with the mouth of one and bottom of another up. In each, there was a small quan-

quantity of human bones, which evidently have been burnt : Parts of the skulls, and other human bones, are very distinct. They were carelessly left by the workmen who found them upon the publick road, where some idle boys broke them in pieces ; but, from the information that could be got, and fragments that were picked up, no inscription had been upon them. It is remarkable, that wherever one of these cairns is met with, another will invariably be found within view of it. A line of them, in this parish, can, in this way, be traced for 2 miles. There may be two, and not a third one in view of either ; but there is never one without another, unless it has been carried away, within view of its fellow.

There is, in this parish, a spring of the chalybeate kind, which has been used with success in scorbutic disorders.

N U M B E R X X X .

P A R I S H O F G R E E N L A W .

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIO-
DALE, PRESBYTERY OF DUNSE.)

By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM SIMSON.

Extent, Name, Soil, Surface, &c.

THE parish of Greenlaw is between 7 and 8 miles in length, from N. to S. ; and, on an average, about 2 miles in breadth. In this parish, there are several of those round hills, or detached eminences, which, from their conical figure, are well known in Scotland by the name of Laws. It is from one of these, which, in the original uncultivated state of the country, being greener than the rest, that the parish evidently derives its name.—The soil is extremely various. In the S. part of the parish, it consists of a deep, strong clay, and produces excellent wheat, barley, oats, hay, and fine pasture. In proceeding northward, it becomes worse. In many places, it is wet and spongy ; and both the grain and grafs are of an inferior quality ; but such parts as are dry, bear good oats, excellent turnips, and heavy crops of clover and rye grafs.

grafs. The N. part of the parish is mostly a mountainous tract. Some of the hills are dry and improved towards the bottom; others are wet, and covered with short heath, and fit only for sheep-walks, and the raising of young cattle. On the W. side of this tract, there is a moss of considerable extent, from which the inhabitants of the town of Greenlaw, and all who live in the N. part of the parish, are supplied with peats of a tolerably good quality. There is no map of the parish. About one half of it is enclosed, and two thirds of it arable.

Climate, Diseases, &c.—The climate is as various as the soil. At Greenlaw, which is well sheltered by hills, the air is rather mild; in the S. of the parish, it is more so, but on the high grounds, and especially towards the N. it is keen and penetrating. It may be said to be a healthy district, few or no epidemical diseases being peculiar to it. In the spring, however, agues, rheumatisms, and intermittent fevers, are frequent: but it is remarked, that these diseases are neither so violent, nor of such duration in this parish, as in those to the S.; which is owing, perhaps, to this part of the country being more hilly; the waters, consequently, being less apt to run into a putrid state. Formerly, the small pox carried off great numbers; but the prejudices against inoculation are fast wearing out. The people, in general, are become reconciled to this practice, by seeing the remarkable success with which it is attended. Mr. Alexander, surgeon in the place, has, in the course of the last 10 years, inoculated upwards of 500, of which number only 1 died.

Rivers.—Blackater, or Blackwater, is the only river which runs through this parish. Its waters are of a dark
black.

blackish colour; and it is from this circumstance it derives its name. It abounds in excellent trout. In summer, and even in winter, it is commonly but a small stream; but being fed by a number of rills and small torrents, which issue from the neighbouring hills, it swells sometimes unexpectedly to a great size, and overflows, to a considerable extent, the valley grounds through which it passes.

Rent, &c.—The valued rent of the parish is 6836l. 3s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Scots. The real rent about 3550l. Sterling. The rent of land varies according to its quality and situation. Near the town of Greenlaw, where it is let in small portions, the rent is from 1l. to 1l. 10s. an acre*; enclosed arable farms from 10s. to 20s. 6d. an acre: unenclosed farms, which are partly in tillage, and partly stocked with sheep, are not let by the acre, but in the lump. The farms are, in general, from 70l. to 350l. a-year; but there are some from 70l. down to 50l.; and a few small possessions below 20l. It ought to be observed also, that several farmers, some of whom reside in the parish, and some out of it, but all having farms in it, possess lands to the value of 500l., and even 700l. a-year. About 50 years ago, the real rent of the parish did not much exceed the third part of what it is at present. Some of the best lands were, about that time, let at 5s. the acre.

This great rise of rent is not owing to any considerable rise in the price of grain: For even so far back as towards the end of the last century, grain sold, *communibus annis* †, nearly as high as it is now. But the causes, which

* When mention is made of acres, in this account, the English acre is always meant.

† See the tables of fiars of the county of Berwick.

which have chiefly contributed to raise the rent so great are the great rise in the price of sheep and cattle, and the vast improvements which have been made in agriculture, by which more grain is raised than formerly ; and much artificial food, such as turnips, clover, and rye grass &c., has been introduced, which has contributed, in a small degree, both to improve the cattle, and to augment their numbers.

Formerly, the parish was almost totally unenclosed, and let out in small farms. From scarcity of manure, an inconsiderable portion only of these farms could be kept in good condition for tillage. This, which was called croft land, lay in the immediate neighbourhood of the farmstead ; and all the manure, which was made upon the farm, was laid upon it. The rest, which was termed outfield, was partly cropped with oats, without any kind of manure whatever, except what was sometimes folded, which was generally but a few acres ; and partly allowed to lie waste, pastured by some stunted half-starved sheep or cattle. When that which was cropped was quite exhausted, it was allowed to rest, and a portion of the other waste ground taken up in its place. A few crops of oats exhausted it also ; it was then allowed again to lie waste, and another portion was ploughed and cropped with oats, and so with the rest. The tenants then were very different from what they now are : They wrought as hard, and fared as meanly as their servants : their houses were small and inconvenient ; and the whole face of the country exhibited nothing but marks of extreme indigence. This wretched system of husbandry, and the poverty which was the consequence of it, were not peculiar to this parish, nor even to this corner of the kingdom, but prevailed almost all over Scotland ; and arose no less from the state

in which commerce then was, than from ignorance in agriculture. Before the Union, Scotland had no foreign market for her sheep and black cattle ; and, consequently, had no motive to raise more of these than her own domestic consumption demanded ; which, at that time, was extremely small, as little butcher meat was then used. But no sooner had the Union opened a market for these valuable articles of commerce, than an influx of wealth, unknown in former times, began to pour into the northern part of the island. This influx of wealth increasing, as the price of cattle rose, gradually produced a happy change in the system of agriculture ; and was, doubtless, one of the principal causes of the improvement of the country : For landlords of discernment soon perceived, that it would be as profitable to cultivate land for rearing and feeding cattle, as for raising grain. They, therefore, enclosed their grounds, and united several of their small farms. These, they either improved themselves, or let to opulent and enterprising farmers, who had money sufficient, not only to stock their farms, but also to improve them ; and who had the good sense to perceive the absurdity of the manner in which agriculture had been carried on, and the sagacity to foresee the advantages which would result from introducing a more improved system. In this parish, these farmers laboured under many local disadvantages : They were at a great distance from lime, which was the only species of manure they could command : They were still farther from markets, where they could dispose of their grain : The roads to both, when they began their improvements, were bad ; but, by their perseverance and spirited exertions, they surmounted every obstacle ; and (which is much to their honour), have converted a great part of the parish from a bleak and neglected,

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glected, into a beautiful and well cultivated district. They now reap the fruits of their industry : Most of them are in easy circumstances, and live in a comfortable manner.

Roads.—When a spirit for improvement in agriculture first appeared in this part of the country, the roads were in bad repair. The only way of transporting grain or meal to the Lothian markets, was on horses backs. It is obvious how expensive this mode of carriage must have been. But besides being expensive, it was attended with another, and even greater inconvenience : In winter, when there was most grain to dispose of, and the farmers stood most in need of money for paying their rents, the roads, or rather tracks, were often impassable. But since that branch of the great road from London to Edinburgh, which runs through this parish, was made (which is nearly 30 years ago), there has been constant access with carts to the Dalkeith market. A cart with 2 horses, carrying 5 load of meal, can perform 2 journeys in the week, and returns home laden with coal or lime. The roads to Berwick and Eyemouth were, till lately, in a bad state ; but now they are in good repair. The principal cross roads in the parish are also much improved. All these roads do great honour to the publick spirit of the gentlemen who planned and promoted them ; for they have put, as far as human art can, this distant inland tract of the country on a level with those places that are more favourably situated with respect to markets.

Mode of Cultivation and Price of Labour.—The ploughs generally used, are the English kind, drawn by 2 horses ; but when strong stiff land is broken up, the Scotch plough is used, which is drawn by 4 horses, or 2 horses and 2 oxen.

oxen. Since the late improvements were introduced into agriculture, the price of labour has greatly encreased. About 40 years ago, farmers men servants, who had their victuals in their masters houses, received from 3*l.* to 4*l.* a-year; the women from 2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*: At present, the men receive from 7*l.* to 9*l.* a-year; the women from 3*l.* to 4*l.* But most of the men servants, employed in husbandry, are married, and eat in their own houses: They receive, for meat and wages, a certain quantity of grain, some money, and food for a cow for the whole year; amounting in all to between 15*l.* and 16*l.* *.

Crops.—The principal crops in this parish are, wheat, barley, and oats. Some pease also are sown, but in small quantities, as the soil is found not to be very suitable for the growth of that kind of grain. Heavy crops of clover and rye-grass are raised on almost all the improved lands. Turnips have been much cultivated of late, and are found to succeed well in the dry grounds. The farmers either feed cattle with them in the house, or sell them to dealers in sheep, to be eaten on the ground. When eaten in the fields, they generally sell at about 3*l.* an acre; but some years, they are much higher: This year (1793) some

3 S 2

fields

* Formerly, men day-labourers, when they furnished their own victuals, had only 6*d.* a day; now they have from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*, except in the time of mowing, when the wages are 1*s.* 6*d.*: in harvest, the men get 1*s.* 2*d.* a-day, with their meat; women, 8*d.* or 9*d.*: but reapers are generally hired for the harvest. The wages of the men are about 1*l.* 6*s.*; those of the women about 1*l.* 1*s.* Women receive for working at hay, and weeding turnips, 8*d.* a-day, without meat: the day-wages of a mason are from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.*; of a carpenter from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.*; of a cabinetmaker the same. Work, however, of all those kinds, is generally done by the piece. A tailor receives 8*d.* a-day, with his meat.

fields fold so high as 6l. 10s. the acre. Potatoes are a general crop, and are of vast service to the poor people. About Martinmas, the price of them is seldom above 10d. or 1s. the firloot.

Mode of Cropping.—The same mode of cropping does not prevail through the whole parish, but is varied according to the soil and climate. On lands fit for bearing wheat, the mode of cropping followed by the principal farmers is this: When a field is taken up that has been pastured for some years, they take 2 crops of oats successively; but if it has not been pastured, and been only 1 year in hay, they take only 1 crop of oats; then fallow it, and after the fallow, sow wheat in the autumn, with grass seeds in the spring: If they do not sow grass seeds, which is sometimes the case, with the wheat crop, they then take a crop of pease after the wheat; and after the pease a crop of barley, along with which they sow the grass seeds. On light dry land, fit for turnips, when taken up after it has been pastured, they take 2 crops of oats successively; but if it has been only 1 year in hay, only 1 crop of oats, then turnips, and after the turnips, barley with grass seeds. Till of late, it was the general practice to take 2 crops of hay before they laid their fields in pasture; but several farmers have found, by repeated trials which they have made, that it is more profitable not to cut their fields, which they intend for pasture, but to put their sheep or cattle upon them the year immediately after they are sown. And they are of opinion, that the first 2 years thus pastured, are fully as valuable as the 3 next following.

Number of Horses, &c.—There are about 280 horses, of all ages, in the parish, and 850 black cattle: the number of

of sheep amounts to about 2500. The attention which has been paid, for some years past, to the improvement of the breed of sheep, has greatly increased the value of the wool. In 1791 and 1792, laid wool sold from 14s. to 18s. 6d. a-stone; and white wool considerably higher. This year it has fallen about 2s. the stone.

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 895. An accurate enumeration of the inhabitants of the parish was made in summer 1785. They amounted then to 1210, of whom 223 were below 8 years of age. Of the 987 who were above 8 years, 832 were of the Established Church; 62 were Burghers; 82 Antiburghers; 7 Cameronians; and 4 of the Relief persuasion. There are 7 heritors, 3 of whom reside in the parish. About one half of the inhabitants live in the town of Greenlaw; the rest live in farmsteads and detached houses, and in a small village, in the N. part of the parish, which contains about 60 people. Almost the whole of the town of Greenlaw is feued*. The feuars are about 80 in number. There are several instances of longevity in the parish. Some years ago, 2 persons died upwards of 90. There is 1 alive at present aged 93, another 87, and several somewhat above 80.

ABSTRACT

* Feuing is a mode of holding landed property very common in Scotland. The purchaser holds of a subject superior, to whom, besides the money given when the lands are bought, he pays a perpetual yearly acknowledgment, which is termed feu-duty. The purchase money paid for the grounds feued in Greenlaw is 20l. the English acre, and the feu-duty 16s. 10d. The Earl of Marchmont is superior.

ABSTRACT of the BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, and BURIALS
from the 1st of October 1785 to the 1st of October 1793.

YEARS.	MARRIAGES.	BAPTISMS.	BURIALS.
1786,	9	21	7
1787,	9	13	9
1788,	10	11	12
1789,	3	9	9
1790,	8	10	13
1791,	14	5	12
1792,	6	12	10
1793,	8	11	16

Stipend.—The stipend is 100*l.*, with a manse, and glebe of about 10 acres. The church was lately repaired and new seated; and although it is too narrow, considering the length of it (which is the case with almost all churches), and rather too small for the congregation; yet it is, upon the whole, a comfortable place of public worship. The manse stands in need of being repaired. The Earl of Marchmont is patron.

State of the Poor.—The heritors and kirk-session meet twice a-year, about the terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas, for the purpose of making provision for the poor. At each of these meetings, an assessment is made, sufficient for maintaining those that are admitted upon the roll for the ensuing half year. The one half of the assessment is paid by the heritors, and the other by the tenants. There are 41 persons at present upon the roll; and the sum assessed to maintain them, for the current half year, is 62*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* About 5 years ago, the sums levied for the

the support of the poor, were not much above one-third of what they now are.

Manufactures.—Manufactures have not yet been introduced into this parish. The only branch that has been attempted, is one of woollen cloth; but how it will succeed, it is impossible to say, as it is yet in its infancy. Cabinetmakers work is extremely well executed here: 8 or 10 tradesmen are constantly employed in making household furniture for gentlemen in the neighbourhood; but none is made but what is commissioned.

Character.—The inhabitants of this parish are, in general, a sober and industrious people. There are some, indeed, of a different character: These, however, are but few. No inhabitant of the parish has either suffered capital punishment, or been banished for many years past; and only one instance of suicide has occurred in the memory of the oldest person living.

Disadvantages.—Perhaps few parts of the country, labouring under equal disadvantages, have made as great progress in improvement as this parish has done. Its distance from markets necessarily diminishes the price of grain; and its distance from coal and lime as necessarily increases the price of fuel and manure. The town of Greenlaw, which is nearly the centre of the parish, is 30 miles from Dalkeith, 20 from Berwick, and about the same distance from Eyemouth; and almost all the meal, and even part of the grain, that is carried to these different markets, is bought up to be transported to more distant parts of the country: What is carried to Dalkeith, is thence conveyed by land carriage to Glasgow, which is
near

near 80 miles from Greenlaw. The nearest coal and lime are in Northumberland, about 20 miles distant. Y. notwithstanding all these disadvantages, not only the part of the parish, where the soil is good, but also many other parts, where it is of inferior quality, are, by being well enclosed and well limed, made as fertile as it is possible to render places so unfavourably situated for improvement.

Antiquities.—The ruins of two ancient religious houses are still to be seen in this parish. They belonged to the priory of Kelso, when popery was established in the country *.

Hints for Improvements.—1. It has been already observed, that several of the hills, in the N. part of the parish, are improved towards the bottom. No part of them, however, is enclosed. This is a great loss to the farmers, as they cannot, with all their care and attention, keep their sheep from the turnips in winter, nor sown grass in the spring. A few enclosures, therefore, would be of great benefit; and would amply compensate for such sums of money as would be necessary for making them.

2. Several

* About a mile N. from the town of Greenlaw, an old wall, or earthen mound, with a ditch on one side, known by the name of Harrit's, or Herrit's 'Dike, runs across the parish. It cannot now be ascertained, either what the height of the wall, or depth of the ditch originally was; but neither of them seems to have been considerable. By the enclosures, which have been lately made in the country, the greatest part of this wall has been destroyed. About 60 years ago, it could have been traced 11 miles eastward; and tradition says, it proceeded, in the same direction, as far as Berwick. It is supposed to have extended westward to a place in the parish of Legerwood, called Boon; a word, in the Celtic language, signifying boundary or termination. It is not known by whom, or at what time this wall was built, nor for what purpose it was intended.

2. Several parts of the same farms are dry and arable, but have not been in tillage for at least 100 years past. These, in their present state, are worth very little : Were they taken up and well limed, and, after a crop or two of oats, sown with white clover seed, their value would be considerably increased. They would become most excellent pasture grounds either for sheep or cattle.

3. The greatest improvement that could be made in this parish, would be to plant some of the high grounds with such trees as best suited the soil. Plantations, when judiciously made, are ornaments to the richest and best cultivated districts : but on high and exposed places, they are not only ornamental, but greatly beneficial. They break the violence of the winds, and render the air more mild and temperate. In few parts of the country do the winds rage with greater fury than on some of the high grounds in this parish : yet these are almost all quite bare, and destitute of trees. It is unnecessary to point out all the various places where plantations might be made to advantage ; it may be proper, however, to mention the following : Were a stripe of plantation drawn across the parish, about half a mile to the S. of the town of Greenlaw, it would be both a great ornament to the country in general, and a vast benefit to the lands through which it passed. Another stripe, about the same distance N. from the town, drawn likewise across the parish, would be no less ornamental and advantageous. Besides these, several clumps of trees ought to be raised in places farther N. In severe winters, when the frosts are intense and of long continuance, and the ground covered with snow, all these various plantations would be of singular benefit. They would afford a constant shelter to the

1689 to the 1792, inclusive.

		1693.										1694.									
		Lamm.			Candlemas.			Lamm.			Candlemas.			Lamm.							
		L.8	o	o	L.10	o	o	L.6	10	o	L.7	o	o	o							
Wheat	10	10	o	o	5	o	o	4	16	o	5	4	o	o							
Merse	10	o	o	o	5	10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o							
Merse	10	o	o	o	5	10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o							
Lamm	10	o	o	o	5	10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o							
Merse	10	o	o	o	5	10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o							
Lamm	10	o	o	o	5	10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o							
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Merse	10	o	o	o	5	10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o							
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Merse	10	o	o	o	5	10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o							
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Merse	10	o	o	o	5	10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o							
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Merse	10	o	o	o	5	10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o							
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Lamm	10	o	o	o	5	10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o							
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Merse	10	o	o	o	5	10	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o							
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**AVERAGE PRICES of GRAIN, in the County of BERWICK, for 102 years, viz-
from the 1689 to the 1790, inclusive.**

	For the First 34 Years.			Next 34.			Last 34.		
	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
Wheat, the boll, - - - - -	7	4	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	7	8	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	18	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Merse barley, - - - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Merse rough bear, - - - - -	5	17	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	12	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	10	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Lammermuir bear, - - - - -	5	3	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	0	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	4	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Merse oats, - - - - -	4	13	10	4	13	6	5	19	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Lammermuir oats, - - - - -	4	2	3 $\frac{6}{17}$	4	5	6 $\frac{6}{17}$	5	6	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pease, - - - - -	5	8	6 $\frac{6}{17}$	5	1	0 $\frac{6}{17}$	6	3	5 $\frac{9}{17}$
Meal, old measure, - - - - -	6	0	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meal, 8 stone to the boll, - - - - -	0	0	0	5	6	0	6	14	8 $\frac{1}{4}$

NUMBER.

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF AUCHTERHOUSE.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS,
PRESBYTERY OF DUNDEE.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES SCOTT.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE parish is supposed to derive its name from the situation of the church, which is placed upon the highest point of a considerable eminence, the ground declining in every direction. *Auchter* is from a Gaelic word that signifies *high*. *Auchterhouse* is 7 miles N. W. of Dundee. It lies in a gentle declivity to the S. of the range of hills called Sidlaw, which separates Strathmore from the Carfe of Gowrie and the low part of Angus. It is of a triangular form, and contains (according to the best information I had access to), about 4160 acres; of which there are 3160 arable.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—The soil is moorish. Below the heath, there is generally a bed of clay and sand, which, when

when properly mixed by means of summer fallowing, make a good soil, called; in this place, light land. Great improvements in agriculture have been made in this parish since the year 1776, which took their rise from the discovery and application of marl, of which there are 3 large fields and a small one. The last mentioned, with 2 of the former, belong to the Earl of Airly; the other to Captain Laird of Strathmartine and Mr. Yeoman of Ballbeuchly. The surface of these fields consists of 2 feet rich earth; below which are 6 feet of moss; under the moss, 4 or 5 feet of clay and sand: then, the first bed of marl; in some places, 7 feet deep; in others, not above 3: Beneath this, there lies another stratum of clay of 5 feet; and next, the second bed of marl, generally of the same depth with the first; which has seldom, if ever, been wrought, because of the water which abounds, and which it would be extremely difficult and expensive to draw off. In one of Lord Airly's mosses, there is a rock of a peculiar species; hard as flint, and black as coal. Where it is necessary to open drains through it, it has always been found impracticable, without the aid of gunpowder, as no tool can make any impression upon it. Yet, obdurate as it is found in its natural situation, when exposed to the winter frost and rain, it crumbles into pieces, and is good for no purpose.—Deers horns, of a great size, have often been found, at a considerable depth in the mosses; as also oak trees, hazle, and other wood.—The marl is sold at 9d. the boll; of which the digger has 3½d. Fifty or sixty bolls are commonly allowed to each acre. And the effect of marl (together with the consequent improvements), has been such as to raise the rent of land from 5s. to 10s., 15s., 20s., and even to 40s. Sterling the acre.

Lord

Lord Airly gave the example of enclosing, draining, and otherwise improving the soil. His enclosures are all of the most substantial kind : The walls are brought to a level at the height of 4 feet ; then covered with large flag stones, projecting 2 or 3 inches on each side ; and to bind and keep all fast, there is set above these a capping of stone, placed on edge, which stands strong like an arch. The enclosures of Ballbeuchly are done after the same manner : Those of Dronlaw and Scotston are carrying on in a similar style : The 2 Adamstons were enclosed many years ago ; but, from the want of good materials, the fences are not so complete as those upon the other estates in the parish. Proprietors and tenants are now so well convinced of the superior advantage of enclosed ground to open fields, and such is the present prevailing spirit of improvement in all the branches of agriculture, that it is thought, within a few years hence, the whole arable land of the parish will be enclosed. These walls are built at 24s. the rood : 8s. for quarrying, 8s. for driving, and 8s. for building.

As to cropping, the farmers differ somewhat in opinion, and vary in practice. Yet all are agreed, that their interest lies in sowing out annually a large portion of their farm with grass seeds, chiefly red and white clover, and rye-grass ; and also in having a good deal of pease, turnips, potatoes, and yams. Oats and barley are our principal crops. Some wheat is sown, but it does not often prove beneficial. Pease meliorate the ground, and yield excellent fodder. It is for these reasons they are sown, and not for any other return they make ; the increase, in most seasons, being rather scanty. Turnips, potatoes, and yams, succeed remarkably well. With the former, a great number of cattle are fed every winter for the butcher.

They

They are also given with great advantage to milch-cows and young cattle. Upon Lord Airly's farm, oxen have been reared and fattened to the weight of 80 stone.—Flaxseed is sown too, which generally yields from 3 to 4 or 5 stone the peck; the stone worth 11s. or 12s.—250 stone of hay an acre; 11 or 12 bolls of oats; 10 bolls of barley; 9 or 10 bolls of wheat; and 10 bolls of pease, are considered abundant crops; and not to be expected, if the fields are not in high cultivation, and the season favourable. In general, little more than the half of the above quantities are reaped; yet the produce is always more than what is necessary for the consumption of the inhabitants. The surplus is carried to the Dundee market, which is said to be about 2000 bolls of meal and barley.

The rent of farms is from 20l. to 200l. and upwards; their extent is from 50 to 500 acres. There are about 200 acres planted, including belts and clumps.

There are 40 ploughs in the parish; generally formed after Small's model, and drawn, some by 2, others by 4 horses, according as the soil is tender or rugged, and the fields level or steep. The number of horses may amount to 200; and milch-cows to 150.

The most deficient crop known in this country these 50 years past, was in the year 1792. Compared with it, crop 1782 was a great one. Still, no person suffered through scarcity, either in the one or other. In 1782, as meal was very dear (20s. the boll), and the price of labour not so high as now, the kirk-session purchased a quantity of meal, and sold it at a reduced price, according to the circumstances of the buyer *.

Heritors

* Wheat is sown in October; oats in March, and to the middle of April; barley and flax in May; turnips in June; potatoes and yams are planted in May; harvest, September, and to the middle or end of October.

Heritors and Rent.—Earl of Airly, proprietor of the barony of Auchterhouse; Colonel and Admiral Duncan, of Dronlaw, Templeton, E. and W. Adamstons; Mr. Maxwell of Scotstoun; Mr. Yeoman of Ballbeuchly; and George Christie of Templeland.—Valued rent 169*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* Sterling. Real rent about 2000*l.* Sterling.

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 600. The number of inhabitants of all ages included, at present is also 600. Ballbeuchly is in this parish only *quoad sacra*; otherwise, it is said, to be in the parish of Caputh, 20 miles distant. It pays no stipend to either; nor does it bear any part of the expense of building and repairing the church, manse, or offices.

There are here 12 farmers by profession; 40 weavers; 7 wrights; 2 smiths; 2 tailors; 8 dikers; 6 quarriers; 2 shoemakers; 3 merchants, having small retail shops; 1 retailer of ale and spirits; 1 clergyman; 1 schoolmaster. We have neither lawyer, writer, doctor, surgeon, or apothecary; no butcher, baker, barber, brewer, distiller, nor exciseman.

Character of the People, &c.—The people are all of the Established Church; regular in their attendance upon public worship; not mere formalists in religion, and yet free from enthusiasm; sober and diligent in their respective professions, contented with their situation, and well affected both to the civil and religious establishments of the country. In spite of the various wicked arts employed by the seditionaries in a neighbouring town to disseminate French doctrines, and to poison their honest minds, they remain unshaken in their loyalty, and think not they degrade themselves by paying honour to whom honour is

due, and tribute to whom tribute is due. From their fathers, they learned these principles, and their children are instructed in the same.—If the price of many of the necessaries of life is greatly encreased, the price of labour is more than doubled since the year 1774. Then, the wages of a man servant were about 4*l.* Sterling; now they are 9*l.* or 10*l.*, with victuals and lodging. The wages of female servants and day-labourers have risen in the same proportion. The people of this country, in general, are happy, and will remain so, if they suffer not themselves to fall under the influence of ambitious, disappointed, turbulent, and ill-designing demagogues. The industrious have ample encouragement, plenty of work, good payment, and full security for their persons, character, and property. Very few young men go from this parish either to the army or navy: a sure proof of their not being addicted to idleness or vice. As to great crimes, they are not known here. No person recollects an instance of suicide or murder; nor of any one who had been tried capitally. And such is their peaceable disposition and integrity, that not many have been involved in law-suits.

Climate.—The air of the parish is keen, but not unhealthy. There are 2 men now alive between 80 and 90 years of age, and still strong and active; and 16 persons between 70 and 80.—The diseases prevalent here are such as are common in the country. Not a few suffer from rheumatisms and scrofulous disorders: agues are scarcely known: the small pox have frequently made severe ravages among the children. By that fatal disorder, in 1775, no fewer than 20 were carried off in the space of 6 weeks. At that time, the prejudice of the people against inoculation was inveterate *.

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Baptisms,

* They employed one argument to justify their obstinacy, upon which
they

Baptisms, Marriages, Burials.

Baptisms from 1st January 1782 to 1st January 1792,	172
——— for the same years in the last century,	205
Marriages from 1st October 1783 to 1st October 1792,	21
——— in 9 years last century, viz. from 1762 to 1678,	52
Burials from 1st January 1784 to 1st January 1791,	65

But as indigent persons were not registrated, they may be taken at 70, which make 10 annually.

Poor.—The number of poor upon the roll, who receive a weekly pension, seldom exceeds 5. These (and others standing in need of occasional assistance), are supplied from the Sunday collections, and from the interest of 300*l.* Sterling, laid out upon bond, at 4½ per cent. The median of the weekly collections, in the last century, from 100 to 1*s.* Sterling. Of the first 30 years of the present century, about 1*s.*: of the year 1743, 1*s.* 6*d.*: and from March 1791 to March 1792, 50 Sundays, 5*s.* Sterling.

School.

they rested, viz. "To inflict a disease, is tempting Providence." The writer of this account exerted all his influence to inspire the people with more just and rational sentiments upon so very interesting a subject. He argued with them in private, and recommended inoculation from the pulpit. He told them, that many of the most pious and popular clergymen had adopted the scheme in their own families; and that, from the great success that attended it in every quarter of the globe, there was good reason to conclude, that it was a scheme highly favoured by Providence. But all in vain. Their prejudices remained, and their children continued to die. In 1782, he had a child of his own inoculated; and in the following year, by the advice of an eminent surgeon in Dundee, he performed the operation himself upon his second child; and, at the same time, upon some other children in the village. They all did well. He continues the practice in his family; and has prevailed with some to follow his example; that is, to inoculate their children without calling in either physician or surgeon. In short, it is believed, that by and by the scheme will be generally adopted; and, in consequence thereof, many useful lives saved to the publick.

School.—The branches taught are, the principles of the English and Latin languages; the principles of the Christian religion; writing, arithmetick, book-keeping, geometry, trigonometry, and mensuration. And in an evening school, kept in the winter months, for the accommodation of those who cannot attend the day school, all the above mentioned branches, except Latin, are taught, and also church musick. The school fees are 1s. 6d. the quarter for reading English; 2s. for reading and writing; and 2s. 6d. for reading, writing, and arithmetick: and no higher quarter fees have hitherto been charged for any branch taught at the school; only those learning the Latin language pay 2s. 6d. the quarter, for 4 quarters in the year, no deduction being made for about 6 weeks of a vacation in the time of harvest. The number of scholars since 1788 (the time of the present schoolmaster's settlement), taking one year with another, have, in the middle of winter and the middle of summer, exceeded 50. The number at the evening school about 18*.

3 U 2

Stipend,

* All the parochial schools, within the bounds of the presbytery, are visited and strictly examined annually by the presbytery, and a report of the state of each school entered upon the record. The presbytery is formed into three committees; the first meeting of each committee fixed, who have power to settle the subsequent meetings. The examination of the several schools is accomplished within three or four weeks. This plan, pursued for these six years past, has been productive of the very best effects; having acted as a stimulus both upon masters and scholars, and proved highly gratifying to parents, and the inhabitants in general. In some parishes, there are hearers who attend the examination. And there is one gentleman (Mr. Paterfon of Castle Huntly), who not only gives his countenance upon these occasions, but distributes premiums to the scholars who most excel. The school of Auchterhouse has given particular satisfaction to the committee, which has been repeatedly expressed, and inserted in the presbytery record.—For some years past, a practice has been established here, which, as it is not general, though attended

Stipend, &c.—The church living, as augmented last session, consists of 104 bolls of meal and barley, and 361. Sterling, with a glebe of 6 acres, a garden, manse and offices. The Earl of Airly is patron. The church was rebuilt in 1775; is very substantial and commodious, clean and neat, with a steeple of cut stone on the W. end. Connected with it, on the eastward, there is an aisle, containing a large vault, formerly a burying-place of the Buchan family, now belonging to the family of Airly. The old church was an extensive grand Gothick structure, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It bore no date. There is a large fount stone remaining, with some images of angels, or saints, in rude sculpture, and but ill-suited to the elegance of the general building. The manse was built in 1789, at the expense of 3221. 10s. Sterling, besides the materials of the old manse and carriages. It is an excellent house, 39 feet by 25 within the walls; well finished, and covered with the best Epsdale slate. The offices were built in 1784. A very handsome school-house was also built in 1789. And, to the honour of the gentlemen concerned

attended with very desirable consequences, deserves, perhaps, to be mentioned. During the summer months, in the interval between forenoon and afternoon worship, a few of the scholars are employed every Sunday in the church, for half an hour at least, in reading publicly a portion of the Old and the New Testament; after which a catechetical exercise follows. These lessons are duly prepared the preceding day in school. This practice inspires a degree of emulation among the scholars, and affords the people an opportunity of marking the gradual improvement of the childrens knowledge, while, at the same time, their own may be advanced. At this school the manner of teaching the English language is the same with that observed by the best English teachers in Edinburgh; and yet, notwithstanding the abilities, the assiduity, and the success of the schoolmaster, his present encouragement (including salary paid by the heritors, salary as session-clerk and precentor, school-fee, and perquisites of office), does not exceed 25 L. Sterling.

cerned, let it be mentioned, that, notwithstanding the heavy expence incurred by so many publick buildings within so short a period, the whole was done with the utmost cheerfulness, and without the interposition of the presbytery.

Minerals, Rivulets, &c.—The parish abounds with freestone, water, marl, and moss.—A fine rivulet, issuing from the lake of Lundic, runs along the S. border of the parish, which, at the village of Dronlaw, where it is joined by another stream, assumes the name of Dighty Water; and this it bears, till it empties itself into the frith of Tay, 4 miles E. of Dundee.

Roads and Bridges.—The turnpike road from Dundee to Meikle runs through the parish. Such as live near the turnpike, and have easy access to it, feel its great advantage, and readily acknowledge it; while those who live at a distance, derive but little benefit from it, owing to the wretched state of the bye-roads, which the commuted statute-labour will never render tolerable. There are in the parish 5 bridges, 2 corn mills, 1 lint mill, and 1 fulling-mill.

Antiquities.—Upon the summit of one of the Sidlaw hills, called the Whitesheets, about a mile N. of the church, there are evident traces of an ancient fortification. About 2 acres have been enclosed with deep ditches and stone walls. This fortification stands 1400 feet above the level of the sea. Both history and tradition are silent respecting its original design. Adjoining to the house of Auchterhouse, there stands a part of a very old building, that goes by the name of the Tower: the walls remaining
are

are still 10 feet in height, and about 8 in thickness, cemented in the strongest possible manner. It is said to have been very high; and that the parish derived its name from hence.

Two of the subterraneous buildings, very common in this part of the country, called by the people *weems*, have been discovered: one, at a small distance from the church, and another not far from the house of Auchterhouse. This last was completely dug up. The space between the walls and covering was full of rich mould; in which were found ashes of wood, some bones, hand mill-stones, about 14 inches diameter, and a brass ring without any inscription*.

Miscellaneous

* It is presumed, that a particular description of these buildings will be given in the account of the neighbouring parish, Liff, where a very extensive one, within a few yards of Lundie-house, was laid open by Colonel Duncan, the proprietor.

These are all the antiquities of this parish; to which may be subjoined the following extracts from the old register, literally taken down. "On Sunday, the 25th of May 1645, Andrew Smith confessed that he had carnal copulation with Jein Mores. Sicklick Jo. Williamson confessed, that he had adoe with Elspit Low; therefore, they are ordained to make their repentance the Sabbath following.—On Sunday, the 1st of Junne, there was but aenes preaching, because of the enemies being so neir hand.—On Sunday, the 20th of July, there was no preaching, because of the enemies being so neir the towne.—On the 5th of July 1648, there was intimation made out of the pulpit, of a fast to be kept on the 9th of July. Also the minister told the people out of the pulpit, that the Earl of Seaforth was excommunicat.—Among many reasons assigned for a fast, the following are two: 3d, Because of the desolate state and cure of several congregations, which have been starved by dry-breaded ministers this long time bygone, and now are wandering like sheep without shepherds, and witnesseth no sense of scant. 4th, Because of the pregnant scandal of witches and charmers within this part of the land, we are to supplicate the Lord therefore, that he would enlighten and encourage ministers and people, and enflame their hearts with more zeal to God."

Miscellaneous Observations.—The Kirktown of Auchterhouse stands 100 feet above the level of the sea; and the prospect hence is very extensive and various. To the W., through an opening of Sidlaw, called the Glack of Newtyle, appear a considerable part of Strathmore, the Stormont, the Grampian mountains, and that famous hill Schihallian, at the distance of about 60 miles, rising in
beautiful

and love to his truth; that the love of the Lord may constrain us all to walk more conscionably and closlie then before; that he would send forth more of his right hand unto the desolate congregations, &c.—On Sunday, the 27th of September, the minister read, out of the pulpit, the names of those who were excommunicat bee Mr. Robert Blair in the kirk of Edinburgh, to wit, the Earl of Airly, Sir Alexander Makdonald, the Lord of —, and some others.—On Sunday, the 7th of Januarie 1649, the minister and twa of the elders went through the church, after sermon, desiring the people to subscribe the covenant.—6th Januare 1650: On that day, the minister desired the session to make search every ane in their own quarter gave they knew of any witches or charmers in the paroch, and delate them to the next session.—On Sunday, the 18th of July 1652, Janet Fife made her publick repentance, before the pulpit, for learning M. Robertson to charm her child; and whereas M. Robertson should have done the like, it pleased the Lord before that time to call upon her by death.—March 21st 1653. The minister reported, that the presbytery had given comission to Mr. William Gray and the minister, to speak my Lord and my Lady Buchane anent yr servant Mrs. Douglas, yt they would cause her attend God's service on the Lord's day, or else dismise her; they promised.—Nov. — 1665. Mr. William Skeinber, minister and moderator of the presbyterie of Dundee, having preached, intimat to the congregation, Mr. James Campble, his suspension from serving the calling of the ministrie, till the synod assemble of Dundee, for ane fornication committed betwixt him and dam Marjorie Ramsay, Countess of Buchanne; for the qlk, by the said presbyterie's order, he beganne his repentance on the pillare, and sat both sermons; and is exhorted to repentance.—December 24. Mr. James Campble, for ane fornication forsaide, being thryce in the pillare; upon evident signs of his repentance, was absolvit.—December 21. That day, the Countess of Buchanne, for ane fornication committed with Mr. James Campble her chaplain, beganne her repentance.—February 2. 1662. All kirk-sessions are discharged till farther orders."

beautiful and grand pre-eminence above all the neighbouring hills. Its figure is that of a perfect cone; and its common appellation the Maiden-pap. To the S., S. E. and E. we have the Lommond hills, Largo-law, the city and bay of St. Andrew's, the mouth of the frith Tay, part of the German Ocean, and Law of Dundee, a full view. In the last mentioned quarter, and contiguous to the parish, the extensive enclosures and valuable improvements of Captain Laird of Strathmartine greatly delight the eye. The same ardour and persevering spirit, which distinguished that gentleman in the whole of his naval pursuits, but especially where dangers and difficulties occurred, has been conspicuous in his land operations. By an unremitting activity, extraordinary personal exertion, and a judicious application of money, his estate, which, not many years ago, was purchased at 10,000*l.*, has been raised to the value of between 30,000*l.* and 40,000*l.* Sterling. Such an example as this, cannot be without its due effect in the country. And it is here mentioned, not only because these improvements beautify the prospect, and tend to the general good, but because Captain Laird possesses one part of this parish by an exchange, and another by purchase. But as neither of them is charged with any portion of the stipend, he is not included in the number of heritors.

The village of Dronlaw contains 112 persons; Kirk-town, 109; Newton, 57. These, like all the other villages in the country, are built in the most irregular manner, and generally consist of houses of the meanest construction. It is much to be regretted that the lower class of people, a numerous, useful, and virtuous body, are not more comfortably lodged. After toiling hard through the day, they come home to be involved in smoke and nastiness.

ness. This evil will remain, till the proprietors of land resolve to build, at their own expense, all the houses necessary for the good accommodation of the people upon their estates. And considering that, by doing so, they gain $2\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.*, they beautify the country, and augment the happiness of those persons by whose industry and labour they enjoy ease, affluence, and splendour, it is not a little surprising, that the gentlemen have been so long inattentive to their own interest, and the comfort of their fellow creatures.

From the tenants of one estate in this parish, no inconsiderable number of services and carriages are exacted; which, while they profit not the landlord, bear hard upon the tenant, and are hostile to all improvement in agriculture. There is, however, reason to believe, that a total abolition of this species of slavery (the only thing meriting that odious name remaining in the country), will soon be accomplished: Already, much of it has been done away within these few years past. It is true, those lands subjected to the greatest weight of services, are comparatively low rented. The condition of cottagers is not the most comfortable. Happy would it be for this order of men, were they to hold of the landlord, and not of the tenant. Few tenants prove gentle masters.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF FORGLEN.

(COUNTY OF BANFF, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY
OF TURRIFF.)

By the Rev. Mr. ROBERT BALLINGALL.

Name.

THE name of the parish was formerly '*St Eunan*, after the titular saint of that name, whom the church or chapel had been dedicated. The common name now is *Ferglen*, or *Foreglen*, to distinguish from the neighbouring parish of Alvah, or Back Glen. For some time, the two parishes were joined, and supplied by one pastor; but, before the middle of last century, *Ferglen* became a separate erection, and an annexation was made of it from the parish of Marnoch, comprehending the greater part of the estate of Carnousie. The annexation of both *quoad sacra et civilia*. At Burn-end, about half a mile to the W. of the present church, is to be seen the remains of a small chapel, probably the place of worship in former times. For more conveniency, the church had afterwards been transferred to its present situation. On a stone built

into the S. wall of it, is an inscription, in these terms :
This church was re-edified by George Ogilvie, Master of Banff, 1692.

Situation and Extent.—Forglen lies on the N. side of the river Diveron : it is bounded on the W. by the parish of Marnoch, on the S. by Turriff, on the E. by Turriff and Alvah, and on the N. by Alvah. On the S. and E. side the river is the boundary. Lord Banff's lands, however, cross it in two or three different places. He has a large alley opposite his own house, on the Turriff side ; another below the church, by the house of Muirish, and a small part opposite Boat of Muirish. On the N. boundary, the part of the farm of Brownside, Captain Hay's, called the Broadmyre, is in Forglen parish, and the rest in Alvah.—The figure of the parish is an oblong, not far from regular ; only the N. E. angle is cut off by Alvah. The length, from the church to the river side, towards the S., is $3\frac{1}{2}$ English miles, and the breadth $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It has a S. exposure, one of the best in the country. The lands have a gradual slope, from the back parts of the parish, to the river on the S. ; and there are no high hills to occasion any inconvenience of shade, being gentle rising grounds, affording a beautiful variety.

Soil.—The soil, on haugh grounds, is sandy, but produces very fine crops of grain, and very rich pasture. The soil on braes and flats above them is richer, and yields the finest crops of barley and oats. Having the river on two sides, which acts as a drain, and there being little moss or marshy ground in this parish, the harvest is early, and the grain, in ordinary seasons, well filled and ripened. It is now customary with merchants to buy oats and barley

by weight. The Banffshire firloft is 32 Scotch ftandard pints, and the medium of a boll of oats of faid meafure is 14 ftone Amftterdam weight ; of barley 18 ftone : barley, however, is often much above that ; $19\frac{1}{2}$ and even 20 ftone : and oats often yield 8 ftone of meal, befides paying mill dues.

Cultivation.—The moft part of this parifh is arable, and has been, at one time or other, under the plough. The lands on the river fide have been, for fome time paft, in a ftate of improvement. The tenants, ftimulated by the example fet before them by the heritors, the late and prefent Lord Banff, and Captain Hay, when he refided at Carnoufie, in improving their mains, had made rapid progrefs in cultivation. And now the fame fpirit has caught fome young farmers, and even the old are ftirring, and extending the like improvements over the reft of the parifh. In the remoteft parts of the parifh, we have now as good husbandry, fields as well drefsed, and as good grain, grafs, and turnip raifed, as on the river fide. The principal tenants have been in the practice of fowing turnip in broad-caft chiefly, for the fpace of 18 or 20 years ; and now the fmaller ones have each their proportion of them, and of fown grafs, which they find much for their profit, and is much in favour of the brute creation.—The mains, in the hands of the heritors, are of confiderable extent, and well improved. There are only two large farms in the parifh ; the farm of Old-Town of Carnoufie, of about 100l. Sterling rent, and the farms of Kirktown and Eaftfide, prefently conjoined, of about 60l. : the reft, at a medium, rent from 20l. to 30l. There are a good many crofts for the accommodation of the fervants and labourers employed by the heritors.

In

In ploughing, the farmers sometimes use horse ploughs, and sometimes oxen, according to the nature of the ground; and the cattle are now yoked with collars and traces, and trained to carts and wains. The breed of cattle and horses is much improved of late; and also the sheep, of which there are several flocks of a larger size, with finer wool, and giving double or triple price of the ordinary country breed. Wool is fold from several farms at 20s. and 21s. 4d. the stone.

The farmers now raise flax for their own use*.—Pease, oats, and barley, are sown from the beginning of March to the end of May; and harvest begins in August, and terminates, in ordinary years, in September or beginning of October. Harvest 1732, and several since, have been much out of course; and the last (1793) as bad as any†.

Heritors.—The heritors of the parish are, the Right Honourable William Lord Banff, Colonel Duff of Carnouffe,

* They are but learners, however: they have not yet acquired the necessary skill, and not reckoning the crop essential, they often lose it, for want of a little attention to weeding and watering; and so come to be discouraged by their own neglect. A night or two extraordinary, in hot weather, will rot it in the steep. Care then should be taken of this, if it should lie a little longer on grafs.

† The seed was late laid down, owing to a cold spring. Rains in summer kept it in the growing state, and extended it to an extraordinary length; so that it was, perhaps, the fullest in appearance we ever saw; but the rain continuing after the ordinary season of harvest was come, prevented its ripening, and also lodged it. In the beginning of harvest this year, about the end of September and beginning of October, a considerable part was got in in safety, but rendered very light by lodging. The weather was good till the middle of October, but then the rains came back again, and spoiled a great part of what remained in the field. Though ordinarily earlier than our neighbours, the victual was not fully secured in this parish when December was come. The same was the case over all this quarter of the country.

nousie, and Captain Hay of Mountblairry. Only Lord Banff, who is patron, and Colonel Duff, reside in it. Colonel Duff's estate of Carnousie is a late purchase from Captain Hay.

Lord Banff's house is called *Forglen*, and stands on the banks of the river Diveron, on the E. side of the parish; a most beautiful situation. Here the river takes a fine circular sweep inwards, close upon the house; so as, standing within, and looking out at the windows, to seem to run under it. The banks of the river, above and below, are covered with a variety of fine old wood, of a large size; consisting of ashes, elms, planes, limes, larixes, and beeches. The ground rises gradually from the river side, and forms a concentric circular hill in the front of the house. The top of the hill is planted, which shuts the fields and houses below finely in, and screens them from the winds and storms. In the centre, on the side of the hill, lies the mains of *Forglen*. The fields are divided with ditches and hedges, and surrounded with belts of plantation in a thriving state. Without these fields, on the N. and S., are accommodated, with neat houses and convenient crofts, all his Lordship's people; grieve, gardener, and farm servants, wright and smith, and labourers, with their families. These perform his Lordship's work, and have their reward, without burdening the tenants at all.—There are 500 or 600 acres, or upwards, of plantation upon the estate, mostly executed by the late Lord Banff, to which considerable additions have been made by the present Lord; all in a thriving condition. His Lordship has done much of late to beautify his seat. The workmen were sorry to put the first hand to change some of the improvements of his father, which they thought well enough, and to undo their own workmanship; but the execution pleas-

ed

and their eye so much, that they forgot their sympathy*. They found this was the order of Providence.—While they were executing these improvements, they were earning their own and their families bread by them. Sorry, sorry were their hearts when his Lordship was called away to the wars. Earnest is their prayer for peace, that he may return to them again.

On the front of the house, over the entry, is a coat of arms, and above it this sentence: *Houp of reward causis guid service.* Underneath, there is this inscription: "Do veil, and doubt nocht, althoch Thou be spyit. He is lytil guid worth that is nocht invyit. Tak thou no Tent qvhat everi man tellis. Gyve you wald leive on demit, Gang qvhair na man dwellis." The date below, or age of the house, or year of building, is 1578.

Colonel Duff's house, *Carnoufie*, stands upon a rising ground, about an English mile and a half W. from the church, not very distant from the river, but not in sight of it. There are several considerable plantations upon this estate, and a good deal of natural wood by the river side. The Colonel is presently enclosing his mains. There are no good quarries in the parish; they are obliged then to use such surface stones as they can find; and yet with these, they make the most beautiful work of dry stone fence I ever saw. The stones are all coursed; and the masons say, they make as much work that way as the other, when their hand is in use; but it requires to be bred to it, as ordinary workmen cannot do it.

River Diveron.—This river abounds with trout, eel, and salmon; and both heritors have fishings on it. Lord Banff

* They began to remember, that there was a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which was planted; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather them.

Banff has about 3½ English miles of the river, and Colonel Duff only one. The fish, however, are small, and the fishings inconsiderable. It is only when there happens high water on Sunday, when the cruives are open, that there is a chance of a run. At other times, the fishings below are plied so close, that few can escape.

There are three mills in the parish: Mill of Ribra, Lord Banff's; and Mill of Burn-end and Mill of Carnoufie, Colonel Duff's.

Rent, Stipend, and Accommodations.—The valued rent of the parish is about 1700l. Scotch.—The stipend is 40 bolls of meal and 6 bolls of bear, and 45l. Sterling in money, besides 2l. 10s. for communion elements.—The manse was built in 1683. The present incumbent has had his barn, kiln, stable, and byre renewed; and is getting the wings of the manse repaired, with the addition of a kitchen and childrens room in one of them, the house being small.—The glebe is good land, but is only a few fells more than legal measure. For pasture, the minister has a den adjoining to the glebe, and a small field on the banks of Diveron, annexed in 1751, by decret of the presbytery, to make the pasture sufficient. He has presently no accommodation of moss; the moss on which he had a locality being exhausted, and no new one yet settled for him. There is indeed but little moss in the parish.

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 607. The list of parishioners varies from accidental causes, by the residence or non-residence of the heritors and their families. The population has increased of late, by the division of some tacks and sublets on a large farm. In 1782, the number of
souls

Souls was 577. The list at this time was exactly taken. Whether the following year's list was equally exact, I know not, but find it set down at 544. This being a year of particular scarcity of meal, perhaps the difference of 33 is to be accounted for by fewer servants being engaged by the smaller tenants and tradesmen, and by allowing their own children to go forth to service. The year following it is up again at 573, and continues about that till 1788, when I find 613; and since that time, it has been about 600. The medium of souls then of these different years is,

	-	-	-	596
Of which number there are males,				282
Females,	-	-	-	314
Examinable,	-	-	-	500
Children about 8 years, and under,				96
Average of marriages,	-	-	-	6
Baptisms,	-	-	-	11
Burials,	-	-	-	12

There are but few tradesmen and mechanicks in the parish. There are 5 square wrights, with about as many journeymen and apprentices; 3 wheelwrights; 10 weavers; 4 shoemakers; 2 smiths; 1 tailor; and 2 good old soldiers, discharged and superannuated, enjoying each his pension, sober and industrious, and of course thriving. There is a smith, an elder of the church, and a miller fit to be one. There is 1 boat within the parish, the boat of Muirish, belonging to Lord Banff; and another, the boat of Ashoyle, belonging to Mr. Leslie of Donlugass, and lands upon it a little below the house of Forglen*.

VOL. XIV.

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Funds

* Boat of Muirish is the only publick house in the parish. There is no manufactory of any kind. There are two or three merchants who retail some small articles, and some of them give out flax to spin, and take in the yarn for manufacturers in Banff and Huntly.

Funds of the Poor.—Though the funded money does not amount to a large sum, only 65*l.* Sterling, yet the poor in this parish are as well supplied as in most other parishes, owing to the liberality of the people themselves, and the distinguished charity of the heritors. The Ferglen family being resident, and giving regular attendance upon the ordinances, have afforded a continual supply to the poor and the sick. And Colonel Duff, when abroad in India, appointed a very handsome sum, in place of Sunday collection. The interest of 65*l.*, then in Lord Bannockburn and Captain Hay's hands, at 5 per cent., with the ordinary and sacramental collections, and produce of mortcloth, goes to the supply of the poor. A meeting is held at the manse annually, of the heritors, minister, and elders, in the end of the year, to consider the state of the poor, and appoint supplies for them. Blankets, clothes, shoes, and other necessities, are purchased for them, as they need. A supply of meal is appointed for the year, and distributed in equal proportions of their quantity monthly. One of the elders, in the centre of the parish, takes charge of the distribution. By this means, the poor are kept from wandering, there not being one belonging to the parish that goes out of it. In times of scarcity, upon application of the session, the heritors generously afforded the meal at the easy rate of 10*s.* the boll, one and above their other charities. At other times, 2 members of the session, Peter Mearson in Eastside, and William Robertson in Mill of Ribra, respectable men, and men of substance, furnished it, and afforded it also at easy rates. This was a great saving to the fund. Keeping the poor thus comfortable within their own houses, would be one happy mean to lessen iniquity, by preventing vagrants, thieves, and pickpockets, from going about

under pretence of begging, and save many from an untimely end. No one would grudge the real indigent their supply; but so many impositions and thefts are intolerable in a land that has any regulation. In 1783, this parish received 13½ bolls of the government meal.

Mortification in favour of the Minister.—There is a mortification in behalf of the minister, of 10l. Sterling, which lies in his hands, free of interest, and is transferred to the successor at entry. This is said to be made by one of the Earls of Buchan, who had property in this parish, in testimony of the minister's hospitality, which had much pleased him, upon honouring him with a visit.

Mortification in favour of the Schoolmaster.—The Reverend Mr. George Bruce, minister of Dunbar, has, within these two years, mortified 100l. Sterling in behalf of the schoolmaster, through an attachment to the parish, he himself having taught the school here in his younger days. He has required the schoolmaster to be established, and to be put in possession of at least 100 merks of salary; and the heritors, to concur with him, have made it 200 merks. He requires, as a condition of tenure, that the schoolmaster shall read portions of scripture to the congregation, betwixt the second and third bells. In case of neglect, the mortification to be transferred to Rothiemay, Mr. Bruce's native parish. Lord Banff, as patron, and Colonel Duff, as next greatest heritor, and the minister, and their successors, are appointed trustees for the management. And the reverend presbytery of Turriff are requested by the donor to inspect the application, with power to question any abuse; and a copy of the deed of mortification is inserted in their records.

Lord Banff and Colonel Duff have taken the 100l. Sterling betwixt them, 50l. each, and bound themselves to pay the interest annually to the schoolmaster, Mr. Manson, and his successors in office, at the rate of 5 per cent.

Mr. Bruce has become a rich man. How honourable to himself is such testimony of his gratitude to God, who hath blessed him with prosperity! How beneficial to society is such benevolence! There is no class of men more useful than schoolmasters, when attentive to their duty, and few worse provided. Their salaries are small, the perquisites in small parishes, inconsiderable, and their payments, by the poor, not very punctual. The schoolmaster here, however, from having one of the smallest, will now have as good a fixed income as most of his neighbours at the country schools.

Mortification in behalf of the Poor.—George Gerard, Esq. of Midstrath, late factor to Lord Banff, through attachment to the parish, in which he has long resided, and from pious motives, presently pays the school fees throughout the year of four of the present scholars, to enable them to read the Bible, and to write their name; and intends mortifying a sum sufficient to make the payment perpetual.

Character and Manners of the People.—The people, excepting two or three of the Scottish Episcopal congregation at Turriff, are all of the Established Church. There is no Catholick nor Seceder in the parish. They are sober and industrious, and discreet in their behaviour; respectful to their masters and superiors, and kind to their minister; and give regular attendance to the ordinances.

The superstition of former times is now much worn out *.

This parish, from its situation, is dry, and the air pure and healthy. There are no epidemic diseases; fevers occasionally, but not so mortal as in other corners. They now see by experience the advantage of medical skill, and more readily apply to the doctor than formerly in time of need; and many are now reconciled to inoculation for the small pox. They find it as good to let the doctor prepare them, and do it, as to let the children inoculate themselves at random. They live to a good old age. A good many are on the borders of fourscore, healthy and vigorous; and several of late have past 90.

Dress.—There is a great change as to this article of late. Hats are as common as bonnets now; and the bar plaid is changed for a scarlet one. On Sundays, there is no distinguishing the country clown from the town beau; the farmer's goadman from the merehant's clerk; and the lassies have their ribbands and muslins to match them. There is a great odds in their living too; they are more social

* There remains, however, still a little. Some charms are secretly used to prevent evil; and some omens looked to by the older people. There are happy and unhappy days for beginning any undertaking. Thus, few would choose to be married here on Friday, though it is the ordinary day in other quarters of the church. There are also happy and unhappy feet. Thus, they wish bridegrooms and brides a happy foot; and to prevent any bad effect, they salute those they meet on the road with a kiss. It is hard, however, if any misfortune happens when you are passing, that you should be blamed, when neither you nor your feet ever thought of the matter. The tongue too must be guarded, even when it commends; it had more need, one would think, when it discommends. Thus, to prevent what is called forespeaking, they say of a person, God save them; of a beast, Luck fair it.

social in the way of visiting; and flesh is more frequently used by all *.

How agreeable is it to see people advancing and thriving. There is one drawback, however, upon them. Price of labour, and tradesmen's rates, are rather too much raised against the country man, and most of all among the farm servants.

Price of Labour.—The price of labour is much augmented of late. A farmer's servant, though but an ordinary one, draws 7*l.*, and some 8*l.*, instead of 5*l.*, a few years back. Womens wages were long stationary at 2*l.*, but are now up to 2*l.* 10*s.*,† Day-labourers receive from 6*d.* to 8*d.* a-day, and victuals. Harvest wages are very high: women 1*l.* Sterling, and men 1*l.* 10*s.*, and above. In hurried times, some have had the conscience to ask 2*l.* ‡.

Rates of Provisions.—Butcher meat is raised, in the space of a few years, from 2½*d.* to 3½*d.* and 4*d.* the lb.; butter from 6*d.* to 8*d.* the lb.; cheese from 3*s.* 4*d.* to

4*s.*

* The farmer is designed by the name of his farm, as the master is by his estate. The goodwife is mistress; and yet the husband modestly declines the compliment. When you ask for the goodwife, by the name of mistress, his return is, I thank you, my wife is well.

† Not, however, in proportion to the men. The men can more easily remove to a distance: and with them indeed now, all is a mercantile or rousing spirit; the highest bidder, though a stranger, is preferred to a good old master, who would willingly retain his servant. But there is now little gratitude, or attachment with these persons, and no room left for their master's generosity and compassion, in case of sickness or settlement.

‡ For such, one would almost wish a scarcity to follow, that they might the sooner eat up their notes. Is it any wonder, when the farmer gets such in his power, that he should take his price for his meal?

4s. 6d. the stone; and fowls from 6d. to 8d. and 9d. *—
The most reasonable article of all our provisions is salmon,
which we have in the season, if the fishing is tolerable, at
2d., and sometimes even so low as 1½d. the lb, when
there is a good run. Eggs are scarcely to be had: they
are carried off to the Banff market, where they get 3d.,
4d., 5d., and 6d., in times of scarcity, the dozen.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are no natural curiosi-
ties. Two small wells, one in the wood of Carnousie,
and another on the N. side of the moss of Whitefield, call-
ed the Red-gill Well, are medicinal, and used by the
neighbours. The one by the moss is a pretty strong
chalybeate, iron mineral; if a little attention was paid to
it, it might be of use to the neighbourhood: the water is
said to be as strong as some of those resorted to. There
is a Druidical temple in the heart of the woods of For-
glen, but shut up thereby from view, till the wood grows
up, and becomes penetrable. The tenants are in danger
of losing their beasts in them sometimes. And the deer,
either chased from the herd in the Highland forests, or
pinched with hunger in severe winters, come some of
them down as far as this, and are seen to pasture with
the cattle on the side of the woods. These woods abound
with foxes for sport, for the supply of the Turriff hunts;
but they frequently make sad depredations among the
poultry around.

A loch, called *the Earl's Loch*, on the farm of Scotf-
town, was probably named after one of the Earls of Bu-
chan

* The fishers wives and daughters were in use formerly to supply us
with fish, and the farmers gave them a very adequate barter of meal for
them; but now they are up at such rates, that meal, in comparison, is
of no value, and will not purchase them. From 6d. and 8d. they
are now up to 1s. and 1s. 6d. at times the dozen. Our own fish are
cheaper.

chan, who were proprietors here : it is now mostly drained up. There is a know, called *the Rounie Law*, where formerly markets were held, on the side of the wood of Forglen, a little N. of the church ; but none are held now. The privilege was probably transferred to Turriff, where are now the best cattle markets in the country.

The cattle on the water side, by richness of the pasture, are of a large size ; one tenant in Eastside, had a plough of 8 oxen, which would, in most seasons, have been good beef from the yoke, and would have weighed from 50 to 70 stone, at an average ; and if full fed, from 70 to 90 ; and some seemed size enough to carry 100. Now however, as more profitable, farmers change oftener, and dispose of them when young. The fleeces of sheep, I am informed, extend to 5 lb. English weight. They shear the lambs, weighing 42 ounces.

We have marked weights for oats, at the medium of 14 stone ; barley 18 ; but these are the lowest mediums. I am informed, there have been oats as high as 16, and have had from 19 to 20 stone of barley, at the end of the seed time, when the victual was clean and dry. This parish used formerly to be supplied with lime, manufactured at Banff, at 9d. the boll, of 2 firlots flacked. They are now supplied with shells from Sunderland, at 3s. the boll, of 4 firlots ; both from Banffshire, distant 10 English miles. This, when used as a manure, is laid on at the quantity of from 80 to 160 firlots the acre. Some part of it is brought from Streisa, Edingight's land, in the parish of Grange ; and a small quantity is burnt in the parish, with peats. The stones are brought from Whitehills quarry, on Lord Findlater's estate, in the parish of Boyndie. But this is very expensive now, and little used, by reason of the scarcity of peats. What is burnt with peats, must be
mashed

mashed down with the hammer to the size of an egg or so.

Peat fuel is very expensive, by reason of the waste of time and labour in casting, winning, and especially carrying the peats. Country people, however, know not yet well how to make use of Mr. Dundas's blessing, as they find the coal does not answer so well on the hearth. They are at length beginning to get small grates for their chamber fires; and they will next see it convenient to have grates for their kitchen fires also. The relieving of this quarter of the kingdom from the tax upon coals, is certainly a great benefit to the country at large, and a special blessing to the poor, of which the clergy know their people to be very sensible: they feel the obligation; they received the news with joy: and, if collected in a body, they would have been as forward to have borne publick testimony to the effectual endeavours of the Honourable Secretary, Mr. Dundas, as any society. They, indeed, deserve of their governors whatever can be done for them; for they are steady friends of Government. It does one's heart good to see their loyalty; while the clergy, in every corner of the church, have manifested their sentiments in favour of Government. The people here, of every description, are in unison with their teachers. There are no murmurers here: No evil men seeking only rebellion. "The King and the Constitution," or, "The King, his Family, and Friends," are the toasts in the lesser, as well as in the greater circles. They pay the taxes without murmuring; and when a just and necessary war imposes an addition, they do not grudge it. They bear the taxes, and they also go out readily, and in numbers, to supply the fleets and armies, and fight the battles of their country.

try. And this parish has afforded its due proportion at all times *.

NUMBER

* The gentlemen are all of the military profession. One of them, Captain Hay, late of the Royals, has now indeed quitted the army. Colonel Duff of the Artillery, in the service of the Honourable the East India Company, after long and honourable service, and joining as a volunteer in prosecuting the war against Tippoo, returned from India upon the peace, and is now enjoying the *otium cum dignitate*. The Right Honourable Lord Banff, oldest Captain of the Inniskillings, is in the actual service of his country, under his Royal Highness the Duke of York. With his Lordship are two young men from this parish; and other two soldiers of the 53d, brothers, of the name of Gallant, who, both at the siege of Valenciennes, and defence of New-Port, behaved most gallantly.—The absurd system of France is universally detested. The cruelties practised to support it shock the sentiments and feelings of all, and disgrace and degrade human nature to a level, indeed, with the most wild and ferocious beasts of the brute creation. Say what the world will, the world, nor France neither, will never be governed by such a system. It has exhibited already, and will continually exhibit horrid scenes of butchery. It lays the foundation of constant jealousies, plots, and massacres. There is no proper subordination of the governed, nor no confidence in the rulers. Such a government then, they know must be feeble and fluctuating, and can have no permanency. It gives every man an opportunity to gratify his private revenge. He has only to stir a little jealousy against him, as an enemy to the Convention to-day, and to-morrow he will be guillotined without mercy or mediation.

N U M B E R XXXIII.

PARISH OF LINLITHGOW*.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW, SYNOD OF
LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES DOBIE.

Situation, Origin of the Name, &c.

LINLITHGOW lies 16 miles from Edinburgh, and gives its name to the western division of Lothian, of which it is the chief town. It ranks the sixth among the Scotch boroughs, and belongs to the district in which Lanark, Selkirk, and Peebles, are included : it is also the seat of a presbytery. Linlithgow is thought by antiquaries

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to

* Few parishes in Scotland would afford more ample and interesting materials for a statistical report, than that of Linlithgow. The author of this, from recent admission to his charge, and other circumstances, has not been able to attain that degree of information which would qualify one to do justice to a subject so complicated and extensive. As, however, the work, which has occupied many of his brethren, honourably for themselves and usefully to the publick, now draws to a close, he thinks himself bound, even under that disadvantage, to state some particulars, which may lead afterwards to a more full and accurate investigation.

to be the same with the *Lindum* mentioned by Ptolemy, and the Romans are supposed to have had a military station on the spot, where the palace was afterwards erected *.

Description of the Town, &c.—The town consists of one street, about three quarters of a mile in length, with several lanes, and a range of gardens on the N. and S. Opposite to the town-house is a vacant space, where the cross formerly stood, and the principal well still is. The street, towards the E., is broad and airy; about the middle, contracted and gloomy: as one goes westward, it again enlarges itself. Many of the houses have, it must be owned, a mean aspect, and exhibit striking symptoms of decay. Several, however, have lately been rebuilt, and other operations of a similar kind are now going forward; so that, in process of time, the whole may be expected to assume a modern and more elegant appearance. Linlithgow abounds with excellent springs:

To

* This opinion is favoured by the natural advantages of the place, especially its plentiful supplies of water, and its vicinity to the frith of Forth, from which stores of every kind could easily be conveyed. As *lith* signifies a *loch*, and that, on the side of which the town stands, forms a striking object, the reference of the first part of the name may be easily discerned. The etymology of the latter is doubtful. It has been chiefly traced to the Erse language, in which *gow* expresses a *dog*, and *lith* a *twig*; and supposed to allude to a black bitch, which, according to tradition, was found fastened to a tree in the small island on the E. side of the loch. This conjecture derives plausibility from the well known figure on the town's seal, though no satisfactory account can be given how that animal came there, or should be so far dignified as to form a part of its armorial bearing. A gentleman of ingenuity and research, has lately deduced the name of Linlithgow from the Saxon, in which *lith* signifies *snug*, *close*, and *gow*, a *vale* or *hollow*. According to this interpretation, the name precisely marks the place as situated on the side of a *loch*, in a *well sheltered vale*.

To that circumstance, concurring with the elevated situation of the grounds, which form two ridges on the N. and S., thus producing a current of fresh air in the direction of E. and W., may probably be ascribed the good health which the inhabitants in general enjoy, and the longevity many of them are found to attain. This place is distinguished by a variety of objects, which cannot fail to impress an attentive observer, and give him a striking idea of its ancient grandeur. Among these, are chiefly to be remarked, the magnificent ruins of its palace; the venerable fabrick destined for religious worship, and situated so near the other, as to form almost a part of it; the grand terrace on which both are erected; the beautiful lake on the N., which covers an extent of 80 acres; the lofty trees, which seem coeval with the sacred and royal piles they adorn on the E.; and the beautiful plantations interspersed with pasture ground. Few places, indeed, would afford a finer subject for the pencil. Even the old houses have their effect on a contemplative mind. As many of these, during the Royal residence at Linlithgow, belonged to persons of the first rank, they mark the simplicity of former times, contracted with the luxury of the present; and by their decayed condition, show the natural tendency of all human things.

The river Avon bounds the parish on the W., and divides this county from that of Stirling. Its course must have altered near the bridge, as a house and field, now on the opposite side, belong to the parish and shire of Linlithgow. The mean extent of the parish, from E. to W., is 5 miles; from N. to S. 3. It is supposed to contain 7600 Scotch acres. The average rent of the whole parish may be estimated at 18s. 4d. the acre.

Soil, Cultivation, and Produce.—The S. part of the parish

rish is hilly, and more fit for grazing than tillage. The soil there is generally wet-bottomed and stiff, and the harvest later. The N. W. and E. parts are mostly arable: the greatest proportion of these have a light free soil; but towards the S. and E., a pretty strong clay. The parish in general is well cultivated, and almost the whole of it enclosed and divided with stripes of plantation. These improvements have been chiefly made within the last 30 years. Several gentlemen in the parish have distinguished themselves in the agricultural line. None laboured in this more assiduously, or with greater success, than the late Mr. Johnston of Straiton. The effects of his attention are visible, not only on his own estate, which now amounts in value to about a seventh of the parish, but the property of another gentleman rented by him, and capable of being let again to great advantage. The roads through the parish, in all directions, are good; thus opening an extensive communication, and conducing effectually to the publick benefit. The ground on the S. rises gradually to a considerable height, and is distinguished by three eminences. That on the W. is the highest, and bears the name of Cocklerue. It rises 500 feet above the level of the sea. The eminence on the E. is well known by the appellation of Binny-craig, and was, in times of ignorance, considered as a favourite haunt of Fairies. The high grounds, in the middle, take their name from the small village of Riccarton, which lies at the foot of them.

The rotation of crops varies according to the soil. On breaking up the lands, they generally take first oats, then a green crop, afterwards barley, and grass succeeds. In the southern parts of the parish, oats, pease, barley, and hay, are chiefly the crops in succession; though in some places they summer fallow for wheat. The lands there

are

are often allowed to run into natural grafs. The lower part of the parifh is found to produce good crops of hay, and early and rich pasture, which are chiefly applied to fattening cattle for the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets; that being found more profitable than rearing young ones. As moft of the farmers keep only a few cows, the dairy cannot be reckoned a principal object. Of late, turnips and cabbage have been introduced into the rotation of crops with fuccefs. They are generally employed in fattening bullocks for the markets above mentioned: fometimes ufed alfo for feeding fheep, and carried with that view into an adjacent field. Several acres, on the N. of the town, are let for this purpose, at 5*l.* each. One farmer, in the eaftern extremity of the parifh, fattens annually about 50 black cattle, and generally difpofes of them early in the fpring. Another, near the town, has at prefent 40 in the ftall; and a third, 30. There are feveral pretty large farms in the parifh. One grazier rents ground to the extent of 700*l.* a-year in this parifh, and 400*l.* more in two of the adjoining.—Potatoes are much cultivated, efpecially in the neighbourhood of the town. Though there be a lint-mill in the parifh, very little flax is raifed.

Lime is often applied to fummer fallow for wheat and barley. There is an excellent feam of lime-ftone in the parifh, which is fold at 1*s.* 6*d.* the boll of Linlithgow barley meafure, or 3*d.* the Winchefter bufhel. There is good fhell marl in the loch; and, fome years ago, confiderable quantities were dragged from it; but this is now given up, as marl is thought to have little effect on grounds that have been previoufly limed; which is generally the cafe in this parifh.—The inhabitants are chiefly fupplied with milk and butter by people in the town, who keep
from

from 1 to 3 cows. The number in all amounts to 108. Many of these have little pasture, and are fed with grains or boiled meat.—Stable dung is sold at 2s. the double horse cart; cow dung at 1s. 6d.; and ashes at 1s.

From the number of breweries and distilleries, the consumption of barley is very considerable; far exceeding the quantity raised in the parish.

Trade and Manufactures.—Though Linlithgow has not that appearance, a good deal of business is transacted in it.—The people in general are sober and industrious, plying their occupations chiefly within doors, or on the side of the loch. The manufacture of leather is the most extensive and advantageous carried on here. There are employed in it 17 tanners, 18 curriers, and 13 tawers; amounting in all to 48. The annexed table, which is warranted as genuine, will give a juster idea of this branch than any other description.

Account of the Number of Hides and Skins Tanned and Tawed, in the Town of Linlithgow, for three years, preceding 5th July 1793, distinguishing the Number in each year.

	TANNED.							TAWED.			
	Backs.	Hides.	Hips.	Calves.	Hog and Dog.	Seals.	Sheep.	Sheep and Lamb.	Mort Lamb.	Calves with hair.	Horse.
From 5th July 1790 to 5th July 1791,	454	1126	4848	8082	13	5073	624	34993	1551	2	—
From 5th July 1791 to 5th July 1792,	587	1782	4395	9478	—	257	1983	45396	—	2	—
From 5th July 1792 to 5th July 1793,	565	1020	5132	11672	2	786	1082	55826	—	1	1

The art of tanning is said to have been imperfectly known here till some of Cromwell's soldiers both instructed others, and plied it themselves.

Shoemaking forms a chief branch of the trade here. It employs about 100 persons; and the number of pairs made annually is computed at 24,000. Considerable quantities were formerly exported to America. Though the demand has now failed, the shoemakers have, in general, a ready sale, and at times, pretty large commissions. Some of the charitable foundations in Edinburgh are supplied from this place with shoes. They are now (December 1793) making 700 pairs, intended by the Earl of Hopetoun as a gift to the soldiers of his regiment. This benefaction is truly noble and judicious, serving to encourage trade, when less brisk, and affording a fresh display of amiable attention to the inferior part of the community. Similar exertions, by men of rank and opulence, would make the benefits of that inequality, without which society cannot subsist, still more sensibly felt, and tend more effectually than any other arguments, to explode the reasoning, and counteract the efforts of designing men.

Wool is another staple commodity here. Three persons from this town go annually into Northumberland, and purchase a considerable quantity. Part of this is short, and grows upon the Cheviot hills. This is either sold in small quantities to such as make cloth of it chiefly for their own use, or in packs to those who retail it. But the greatest part of the wool brought here is long, and fit for combing. This part of the process was introduced by workmen from England; but all the people now employed in it, amounting to 24, are fixed inhabitants of the town. The quantity of wool brought to Linlithgow is much the same as for many years past; for though the

sale of the shott be diminished, from the country people having got more into the custom of buying cloth, the deficiency is supplied by an increased demand for the combed; as manufacturers find it more for their interest to purchase this article, than order it as formerly from Darlington and other towns in England. The manufacture of wool can hardly be said to be carried further in this place, though the water of the loch, from its peculiar softness, is well fitted for that, or any other in which soap is used. There is, however, 1 carpet-weaver, and 23 stocking frames. Of these, 10 are employed by a company at Glasgow. One stocking-weaver has 6 frames constantly at work, and produced last year 2220 pairs *.

Two tambour factories were lately erected here. The one employs 36 girls, who are bound for three years, and have 1s. 6d. a-week the first year, 2s. the second, and 2s. 6d. the third. At the other, 50 are engaged for the same time, who receive each 2d. more a-week. The companies at Glasgow, for whom they are employed, allow an annual sum for instructing them in the principles of religion: with that view, attendance is given every Lord's day by two of the teachers in town. Attention of
this

* The trade in lint and linen yarn was once carried on here to a considerable extent. Some persons engaged in it acquired vented fortunes. One versed in that business, states the former exchange of money for these articles from abroad at 10 cool. a-year. There was at that time, also a great linen market here. The decline of this trade has been occasioned chiefly by the introduction of cotton. The manufacturers also of London and Manchester, who were often supplied from this place, now import these articles directly from the continent. The manufacture of thread was early introduced to this place, and carried on with success; but the demand is now trifling, and the number of mills reduced to four. Beautiful domestic linen was also wrought here some years ago, but the looms are now applied to diaper. Six looms are employed in the muslin branch: What they weave is sent to Glasgow.

this kind is the more laudable and requisite, as the education of the lower classes is unhappily neglected; and though other circumstances may concur to increase the depravity of the times, it certainly originates in the want of these early impressions of God and a future state, which only can effectually bind the conscience, and regulate the life *.

Printfield.—In 1786, the calico-printing business was begun upon the river Avon, about a mile W. from the town, and carried on to a considerable extent, till towards the close of the year 1792. The number of persons then employed in it was 200; but they are now reduced one half. The present director was formerly engaged in some of the extensive operations on the banks of the Leven, and pleases himself with the idea of the speedy revival of this and other branches of trade.

The bleachfield, which bears the name of the town, though now removed at a considerable distance from it, lies also on the side of the Avon. Part of the machinery, which is said to be of a new and improved construction, is in the county of Stirling, separated from the field only by the river. Mr. Reed, the conductor of this work, invented the watering machine, which is found so useful in the west country; and also contrived a new species of pump, less subject to friction than the common one. He has some other improvements in view, which he means to submit to the publick.

4 A 2

Near

* Small attempts in the cotton line were lately made, but without success. Some gentlemen from Glasgow, in summer 1792, had projected a great work of this kind, and found a situation, very fit for the purpose within half a mile of the town; but as they could not agree with the tenant about the value of his lease, the scheme was then dropped; nor have circumstances since been so favourable to commercial enterprise.

Near the machinery employed for the bleaching, is a flint mill, under the direction of the same person. The rough materials are brought chiefly from Gravesend, and when ground sent partly to Glasgow. Some of them are exported to Ireland, and the rest used as a supply for his own pottery at Westpans in East Lothian.

Among the articles of trade here, snuff must not be omitted, as the persons who manufacture it reside in the town, though the mill they use be in the parish of Muiravonside. They still carry on the business to a considerable extent, though the demand is not so great as formerly.

Breweries and Distilleries.—There are three breweries in town, for porter, ale, and small beer. The malt liquor produced here may vie with any in Scotland, and has a very extensive circulation. The brewers are all restricted, to the borough mill, and complain of the heavy multures, which is a sixteenth part.—There were lately four distilleries in the parish. One very considerable, is removed to the next parish, on the E. ; but some of the previous operations are still carried on at Broad-law, in the S. of this parish. Another, near the town, has been discontinued this year, but will soon be resumed. The quantity distilled here is very great. The manufacture at Bonnyton employs 24 men all the year, 3 female labourers, and 3 female house servants. From 150 to 180 black cattle are fed there annually : Of these, generally 100 are at the stall at one time.

Bakers.—There are several in Linlithgow, who not only supply the inhabitants of it, but the country around. The bread is remarkable both for its fine colour and delicate taste. One baker sends a quantity twice a-week to the Queensferry, and other places in that direction.

The

The bakers are also restricted to the town's mill, and formerly paid the one-and-twentieth part, but now compound for that proportion at 1s. 6d. the boll.

Mills.—There are four corn mills in the parish, besides those belonging to the burgh, which were lately built on the best construction for manufacturing all sorts of grain. Alexander II. had bestowed the mills of Linlithgow, with all their pertinents, on the priory of Manuel, of which the remains are still to be seen on the opposite side of the river. These, in 1586, were granted to the town by Lady Jane Livingston, prioress of that convent, on condition of their paying annually 20 merks Scotch. That grant was renewed after the reformation by James VI., and other privileges conferred, by a charter of *novodamus* in 1592.

Particulars as to the Borough.—Though the time when Linlithgow became a royal borough cannot be ascertained, it certainly existed in that capacity as early as David I.; for during his reign, it was, by act of parliament, constituted one of the principal burghs of the kingdom*.

Linlithgow was formerly a place of considerable trade, opulence, and splendour; but, from the union of the crowns, especially after the junction of the kingdoms, it declined in all these respects. It once had an exclusive right

* The town was originally governed by two bailies, as appears from the deed of submission to Edward I., in 1292; which contains the names of John Rabuck and John de Mar, who are expressly designed, *Baillivi burgi de Linlithgow*. The number of bailies was afterwards increased; but there was no provost till 1540, when James V. empowered them, by a charter under the great seal, to elect *Præpositum Burgi*. Besides the provost and four bailies, the council is now composed of a dean of guild,

right of trade from the water of Cramond to the mouth of the Avon; and Blacknefs was fpecially assigned as its port. Veffels with foreign commodities frequently arrived there; and thefe again exported the productions of the town and country around. Warehoufes were erected at Blacknefs, fome of which ftill remain; and the officers of the revenue had a ftation there. Through the influence of the family of Hamilton, the customhoufe was, about the end of laft century, transferred to Borrowftounnefs.

The town of Linlithgow ftrenuously oppofed the creation of Queensferry into a burgh; but the matter was at laft compromised on the following terms: That the latter fhould pay the former the annual fum of 10 merks Scotch; That the freemen of this borough fhould enjoy all the immunities of Queensferry without reciprocation: That on the arrival of any foreign fhip, before it was unloaded, the magiftrates there fhould inform the dean of guild here; fo that within 24 hours, the burgefles might, if they pleafed, purchafe half the cargo, timber only excepted. The annual acknowledgment of 10 merks is ftill received; and there

a treafurer, twelve merchant counfellors, and the deacons of the eight corporations.

The Corporations are,

1. The fmiths.
2. The tailors.
- 3 The baxters.
4. The cordiners.
5. The weavers.
6. The wrights.
7. The coopers.
8. The flefters.

Befides the Incorporation, there are feven Fraternities.

1. The dyers.
2. The gardeners.
- 3 The hecklers.
4. The fkinners.
5. The whipmen.
6. The woolcombers.
7. The tanners.

Though the form of electing the magiftrates annually be requifite, the fame perfons may be continued in office; and frequently are fo for a fucceffion of years.

there are repeated instances in the council books of intimation made, according to the original contract.

By act of parliament, the Linlithgow firloft is the standard for dry measure, as the Stirling jug is for liquid. The firloft, by which oats and barley are measured, contains 31 Scotch pints: That used with regard to wheat and peafe, is limited to 21. After the Union, by order of Queen Anne, feveral Winchefters bufhels of brafs were fent to Linlithgow to be diftributed among the other boroughs. As, however, they did not all apply, fome of them ftill remain in the town-houfe. That attempt failed, like others fince made to introduce an equality of weights and meafures.—The town, by repeated grants, have a right of levying cuftom for all cattle that pafs the bridge, or any part of the Avon. The eftablifhed rate for a fcore of nolt is about 13d.; for a fcore of fwine not lefs than 4s. 5d. The revenue of the town, which arifes chiefly from the mills and customs, amounts to about 400l. a-year*.

Flefb-

* The magiftrates and other members of the town council, with the corporations and fraternities, make an annual proceffion on horfe-back, in the month of June. This is termed, *Riding their marches*. Two ftandards, with the town arms painted on white filk, are born on that occafion, by the treafurer and deacon convener of the trades. They go firft to Linlithgow bridge, and afterwards to Blacknefs, where a cold collation is provided. They return in the fame form; and, dividing themfelves into different parties, pafs the evening in feftivity and harmony.—The feal of the town has on one fide the figure of Michael, the archangel, with wings expanded, treading on the belly of a ferpent, and piercing its head with his fpear. Around the figure of the bitch, tied to the tree on the Crofs-well, is the following infcription: “ My fruit is fidelity to God and the King.”—Several houfes in the town formerly belonged to the Knights of Jerufalem, and paffed with their other tenements in Scotland, to the head of the ancient family of Sarrildons; who, upon the diffolution of that order, exchanged his fpiritual jurifdiction, as prior, for the temporal dignity and emoluments of Lord St. John and Torphichen,

Fleish-Market.—This is well supplied with the various articles in that line. The meat was formerly ranged on moveable stalls, at the cros; but is now more conveniently disposed, in a place surrounded with high walls, and defended from the injuries of the weather.

The weekly market was anciently held on Saturday, but is now transferred to Friday. There are 6 fairs in the year. The chief of these is St. Magdalene's, on the 2d of August. The fairs here are not so much frequented as formerly. They were indeed once resorted to from all parts of Scotland, and continued for several days.

The rate of living is as high here as in the capital. The price of beef and mutton often rises beyond it. Veal and pork may sometimes be had cheaper than in that market. Poultry of all kinds are not only dear, but scarce. This arises in part from the increased demand of the neighbouring city; and still more from the diminution of cottagers, who furnished plentiful supplies of that and many other articles connected with house-keeping.

Fish.—The loch produces eels, pike, and perch, in their respective seasons, though these are now said to have decreased. Considerable quantities of eels are collared here, and sent in that state not only to different parts of this kingdom, but as far as London. Trouts are also to be had in the river Avon.

Minerals.—Coals are the only fuel used either in the town or country parish. They are chiefly brought from Borrowstounness and Grange collieries, and the E. part of Stirlingshire.

Torphichen. The superiority of these houses in Linlithgow, one or two only excepted in the deed, was afterwards formally conveyed to the magistrates and council.

Stirlingshire. Several of the inhabitants of the town are constantly employed in driving coals. The carts they use are of the single kind chiefly. The price of this article has risen considerably of late. This arises partly from an increase of the original charge, and partly from an additional demand for driving. The first has been raised 2d. the load, the other from 2s. 8d. to 3s. 5d. the single cart. That there are mines of coal in the parish, cannot be doubted. Some recollect these brought both from Bonfide and Bonnyton, on the N. E. of the town. The borough muir, the lands belonging to the kirk-session and guildry, are believed to contain coal; and as these places lie near the town, a supply from them would be of signal advantage. Early in this century, one Peck took a lease of the burrowmuir, engaging, in the event of success, to pay 100l. annually, and furnish the inhabitants of the town with coal at 3d. the load. Though he failed in the attempt, either from want of skill or perseverance, abilities and exertion employed there, or upon the session and guildry grounds would, in all probability, conduce both to the benefit of the adventurer and the good of the publick. There is also coal on Mr. Stewart of Binny's estate, which, with a mixture of the large kind, produced excellent fires, though it has not been wrought for several years. The lime-stone, in the S. of the parish, is well known, and universally allowed to be good. Free-stone is scarce. The quarries lie at a distance from the town, and are little used at present.

In the southern extremity of the parish is a silver mine, said, in former times, to have been a considerable source of wealth to the Haddington family, who were once proprietors of it. Silver taken from it was also coined here during the residence of the royal family, and some of the

groat pieces are still in the repositories of the curious. The place used for smelting the metal lies to the westward of the town; and, from the use to which it was applied, still bears the name of Silver Mill. That mine, with the track adjoining it, belongs now to the Earl of Hopetoun. Search has been repeatedly made, but the contents must either be exhausted, or the right vein not struck.

Heritors and Rent of Parish.—The number of heritors is 58. There are 16 more who hold by burgage-tenure, paying stipend, but having no valuation. The valued rent of the parish is 12,503l. 14s. 1d. Scotch. The real rent is about 7000l. Sterling. One half of the parish, in point of value, is possessed by the following heritors: Mr. Johnston of Straiton, Earl of Rosebery, Countess of Dalhousie, Earl of Hopetoun, Honourable and Reverend Mr. Hamilton of Riccarton. Few of the chief proprietors reside in the parish. Of those who do, Hamilton of Westport is the most ancient. Johnston of Straiton is the first both in valuation and real property.

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 3296.

From the incumbent's survey in 1792-3, the number in town was, - - - 2282

In the country, 939

Total, - 3221

Decrease since 1755, 75*

Benefice.

* The number of inhabitants in the country is considerably diminished within the last 30 years. This may be attributed to the cause which has produced similar effects in many other parts of the kingdom, converting
into

Benefice.—This consists of meal and barley, with a small proportion of oats, and 34l. 9s. in money. The incumbent cannot yet ascertain its value; but his predecessor, on an average of 13 years, in which the 1782 was included, rated it at 120l. There is at present no manse, but in lieu of one, the town allow annually 100 merks Scotch. That might once be adequate, but the minister cannot now be accommodated for double the sum. As there is no allowance for communion elements, that expense is defrayed by a collection. The glebe lies about half a mile from the town. Being small, and not enclosed, it has been usually let at 6l. a-year. The Crown is patron *.

4 B 2

School,

into a single farm large tracks formerly occupied by several tenants, with numerous families depending on them. Nor does this only affect particular spots, but it must be hurtful in general, both to population and morals, as the sedentary employments and artificial intercourse of a town are certainly less favourable to health and virtue, than the invigorating exercises and natural recreations of a country life.

The number of inhabitants in the town has increased, though not in proportion to the diminution of the country parish.

The average of births, marriages, and burials, for 10 years preceding, is as follows :

Of marriages,	29.
Of births,	94.
Of burials,	62.

The number of marriages and births may be exactly ascertained, but deaths are not so regularly inserted; nor will even the account of mortcloths fix this, as some who die here are buried in other parishes, and *vice versa*.

* Though there is only a provision established by law for one clergyman, the cure was served by two, from the 1700 till the translation of Mr. Speirs to Burntisland in 1743. For supporting a colleague, the original incumbent agreed to advance annually 350 merks. The town bound themselves at first to pay 550 merks, with 40l. Scotch for house-mail, and raised that sum afterwards to 800 merks. The trustees for the Widows Fund opposed the abolition of the second charge; but the town was dispossessed by the Court of Session, in an action brought at their instance.

School, &c.—From its natural healthiness, as well as the easy access in all directions, Linlithgow is peculiarly fitted for a place of education. Many of both sexes have been trained here. That fewer now resort to it, may be accounted for from the variety of new erections in the line, and the ever-changing humour of the publick, without affecting in any degree the abilities and attention of the teachers. The rector has a salary of 400 merks, also a house and garden. The person who teaches English, writing, &c. has about 14l. yearly. That, as well as the other salary, is entirely paid by the town. The lower part of the schoolmaster's house is employed for teaching in. The house was lately repaired at a considerable expense. Several boarders might be accommodated there, and in other houses of the town.

Poor, and Funds for their Relief.—The number of poor in this parish, especially the town, is very great. The pension list contains at present between 80 and 90. Not above a third are natives, or even long resident. Several from the Highlands have established themselves here, and many from other parishes imperceptibly crept in, induced partly by the low rents, and partly by the prospect of sharing the charity funds, which are pretty considerable. The magistrates and town council, some years ago, enjoined the proprietors of houses not to admit any from other parishes, but such as had a visible mode of subsistence, and little prospect of becoming burdensome. This circumstance ought certainly to be attended to, as it is improper to alienate to strangers funds destined for the necessitous, who have a natural interest in the parish. Nor are the proper objects of charity those who often stroll about from idleness, and waste what is given them; but the
sober

sober and industrious, who, from unforeseen and unavoidable contingencies, feel the painful struggle between want and the shame of disclosing it. These ought to be explored, and relieved by such as have the management of publick funds *.

Publick Buildings in the Town, and Antiquities.—These articles may justly be connected, because of these buildings, the oldest are the most striking. The palace is well known to all who have visited Linlithgow, and appears majestic even in ruins. As the eminence on which it stands advances almost into the middle of the loch, it has, when viewed from the N., the appearance of an amphitheatre, with a descent on the three sides, and terrace walks on the W. This was formerly mentioned as a Roman station. It is probable, that, as soon as the kings of Scotland fixed in the Low Country, they had a place here for resorting to occasionally. Its natural advantages could not fail to attract them, and the situation, at an equal distance, almost from Edinburgh and Stirling, rendered it peculiarly convenient. David I. granted the abbot and canons of Holyroodhouse, *omnes pelles arietinas ovinas et agminas de Linlythgu de meo dominio*; but whether the last phrase

* The kirk-session, in the beginning of this century purchased 48 acres of ground on the E. of the town, and draw from it 59l. annually. They have also the interest of 200l., lent out for behoof of the poor. The weekly and sacramental collections, the mortcloths, &c. may produce 70l. more. The guildry have also a considerable fund for the relief of their decayed members, and distribute annually about 40l. The several corporations and fraternities have a provision for the old and indigent, with whom they are respectively connected. There are also seven societies, on a more enlarged plan, which have the designation of Friendly, and allow a sum weekly to the contributions, when reduced either by age or sickness.

phrase implies his having an habitation there, may admit a doubt. The same Prince granted "Priori et Canonicis Sancti Andreæ in puram et perpetuam, Eleemosynam Ecclesiam suam de Linlydgu." After the accession of the Steuart family, it became a fixed royal residence. The queens of Scotland had it in several cases as their jointure house. James IV. was more attached to it than any of his other seats. The E. part of the palace, which has been peculiarly magnificent, was built by him. The remains of the grand gate are still to be seen, though the entrance is filled up, and many of the surrounding ornaments defaced. On the inside of this gate was the famous statue of Pope Julius II., with the triple crown; which, after it had long escaped, was, in the course of this century, demolished by a smith of the town, in the ardour of his zeal. The palace is all of polished stone, and covers about an acre of ground. James V. added the chapel and parliament hall. James VI. completed the grand square, by erecting the magnificent apartments on the N. Many of the windows, and some of the doors, have the initials of his name, with corresponding ornaments. In the centre of the area, was a fine well, adorned with several statues, and so constructed as to raise the water occasionally to a great height. This is now in the same ruinous state with the buildings which surround it. The chief entry to the palace was from the E. The gardens lay on the same side. It had also a grand porch on the S., built by James V. This still remains, and on it may be traced, though now indistinct, the royal arms, with the collars of the orders of St. Andrew, the garter, and St Michael. Though this building suffered from desertion, it continued habitable till 1745, when it was reduced to the condition in which it now appears. Part of the royal army had been accommodated

accommodated there. Some of the fires being neglected, had, before the discovery was made, communicated with the roof. This being of lead, poured itself down in all directions, so as to preclude any attempts to save it. The burning of the palace happened the same day that the church of St. Ninians was blown up. The explosion of the latter was sensibly felt here, and gave rise to various conjectures, till intelligence of the real cause was received.

The Duke of Hamilton is now honorary keeper of the palace. The emoluments connected with that office are enjoyed by an English gentleman of the name of Carter.

Church.—This building unites elegance with strength, and may be regarded as a complete specimen of Gothic architecture. Its length from E. to W. is 182 feet. The breadth, including the ailes, 100. The height about 90 feet. The time of its erection cannot be ascertained. It may probably be referred to David I., who distinguished himself so signally by structures of that kind.

The steeple is adorned with an imperial crown, which has a fine effect from whatever point it is viewed. The out side of the church was adorned with several statues, and the niches remain; but, in the height of antipapal zeal, all the figures were demolished, except that of Michael, which escaped probably from its being placed higher than the rest, rather than respect to him as the tutelary angel. That he was reputed so, appears from the stately church dedicated to him, from one of the wells, which bears his name, and the town arms, which exhibit him with this inscription: *Vis Michaelis colloce nos in cælis.* But whatever the people here might, in ignorant times, attribute to his influence, it may be presumed they now build their hopes of admission to heaven on a surer basis.

The

The roof of the chancel is both elegant and durable. It was erected by George Crichton, bishop of Dunkeld, and adorned with the arms of that see, and the initials of his own name. Some allege, this was imposed on the bishop as a penance; but it may be more honourably, and perhaps as justly accounted for, from his attachment to the place, in which he originally officiated as vicar, and where he often resided from his connection with the court, as keeper of the privy seal. James V. ordered a throne and 12 stalls to be erected in this church, for himself and the knights of the Thistle, intending their banners to be hung up there. But his sudden death, after the battle of Solway, and the commotions which followed, prevented the execution of that, and many more important designs*.

The town-house was raised in 1668, under the direction of Sir Robert Miln of Barnton, chief manager of the burgh. The roof was originally flat, and of lead, but has lately been exchanged for a more convenient sloping one†.

The cross-well was built in 1620, and is distinguished by a variety of grotesque figures. It pours forth its streams in so many directions, that a dozen of people might be supplied at the same time.

The

* The inside of this church at present does by no means correspond to its outward appearance. The E. part might be converted into an elegant place of worship, and would, it is believed, accommodate as many as the present. That, or some improvements of a similar kind, will, it is hoped, be soon made. Appended to the church on the S. is the burying-place of the Linlithgow family. The workmanship is elegant, and it does not hurt the symmetry of the original building.

† Besides other accommodations, the town-house contains a large council-chamber, the sheriff court-room, fitted up in a complete style, a mason lodge, and the apartment destined for Dr. Henry's library. Affixed to this, on the back, is a new building, the lower part of which is designed for a corn market, and the upper for debtors, who have hitherto had no other place but the common prison.

The Carmelites, or White Friars, had a convent at Linlithgow, which stood on the S. side of the town. The eminence bears still the name of the Friars Brae, and the adjoining well bears a similar designation. The application of their revenues cannot now be traced.—This establishment, in point of antiquity, was the third of the kind in Scotland. It was founded in 1290 by the inhabitants of Linlithgow, and consecrated to the Virgin Mary.

There is said also to have been a monastery of Dominicans or Black Friars here. Some remains of a religious house, probably this, may still be discerned in the E. part of the town. There was also a chapel, sacred to St. Ninian, at the West-port, though no traces of it now remain. There was another erection of a similar kind at East Binny, in the extremity of the parish; but no satisfactory account of it can now be had.

St. Magdalane's, on the E. of the town, was an *hospitium*, or place of entertainment for strangers. It had originally belonged to a set of Lazarites; but, on their extinction or secularization, was applied to this purpose, according to the beneficial institution of James I. The eminence, at the bottom of which this hospital stood, is still designed *Pilgrim-hill*.

There are two eminences on the W. of the town, on one of which courts of justice are said to have been held in ancient times. The plain below had, probably from this circumstance, the name of *Doomsdale* given, which it still retains.

To the W. of the town, near the bridge, is a field anciently used for military exercises and amusements. It has still the name of *Foisting-haugh*.

On the high hill formerly mentioned, the vestiges of a military station may be traced. There is also at the bot-

tom the appearance of a ditch. On the summit is a cavity, which bears the name of *Wallace's cradle*, and is said to have been often resorted to by that warrior. That hill is commonly called *Cockleruc*. Some make its origin French, *cocu le roi*; and suppose it alludes to the infidelity of one of the Scotch queens. Others trace it to the Erse, *Cahailree*, or, *the strife of kings*.

On an eminence, in the S. E. of the parish, above Ochiltree mill, traces still more distinct of a camp are to be seen.—A stone tablet, of elegant sculpture, was lately found in digging a grave within the church. One compartment exhibits our Saviour praying, while the three select disciples are fast asleep. The other represents him saluted by Judas, and seized by the guard. He is at the same time healing the ear of Malchus, while Peter is putting his sword in the sheath. Though the stone be broken, the figures are not essentially injured.

Presbytery Seal.—This was lately discovered in an old repository. It is of brass, and larger than a crown piece. Engraved round it is, *Sigillum presbiterii Linlichowe*. In the centre are some decorations, the date 1583, and these words, *Verbum autem Dei nostri stabit in eternum*. *Etc.*
40.

Coins.—Some years ago, several Roman coins were found in the Burrowmuir, amounting to about 300 *.

Remarkable

* They had been deposited in an earthen urn, which the plough broke, and were picked up in lumps, by some persons who followed it to gather stones. The town, as superior, claimed the treasure. The pieces were not above the size of a sixpence, all silver, and having different dates and impressions. They were probably the collection of some virtuoso, and being involved in rust, would furnish a sweet morsel to antiquaries. Some coins

Remarkable Events that happened at Linlithgow and in its Environs.—When Edward I. came to assert his claim to the superiority of Scotland, he lay with his vast army, the night before the battle of Falkirk, on a track of ground to the E., which, though now enclosed, still retains the name of the Burrowmuir. He marched next day through Linlithgow, and defeated the Scotch army under Wallace and Stewart, Comyn and his adherents having previously withdrawn themselves.

Apparition to James IV.—The story of this apparition, which is said to have preceded the battle of Flodden, has been often recited; and St. Catharine's aile, on the S. of the church, is shown as the place. There is no doubt that, while the King attended the evening service, one in an unusual form and habit appeared, dissuading him from the enterprize, on which he was so strongly bent. This probably was a stratagem devised by the queen, and carried into effect by some of the courtiers. The catastrophe which followed, connected with the previous appearance, would, in a credulous age, naturally establish the belief of a special interposition from Heaven.

Battle near Linlithgow Bridge.—This was fought between the Earls of Lennox and Arran, during the minority of James V. It began on the plain opposite to the Priory of Manuel; but the most bloody conflict was near the bridge. The action proved fatal to Lennox, and his

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remains

coins were also found lately in an old house of the town, when the workmen were digging for sand, about 500, of which 20 were gold, the rest silver. Many of them had impressions of the different James's, and some of Henry IV. of England. Some of the gold coins were about the size of a guinea, others the half. These had their lustre unimpaired, but the silver pieces were overgrown with rust.

remains were deposited in the neighbourhood. Though, from the remoteness of the event, and the cultivation of the ground, the spot cannot now be exactly traced, it was long distinguished by one of those memorials to which passengers often added a stone, called *Lennox's cairn*.

The unfortunate Mary was born in the parish of Linlithgow, about eight days before her father's death; but removed a year after to Stirling, as thought a more secure station in these turbulent times.

Linlithgow has been often remarked as the place where the Earl of Murray, the regent of Scotland, was shot by Hamilton of Bothwell-haugh. The particulars are so well known, that it would be needless to swell this account with a detail of them. It is sufficient to observe, that the projection of a balcony, the narrowness of that part of the street, and the regent's position on horseback, were peculiarly favourable to the assassin's purpose. Having taken previous measures for escaping, and with a view to obstruct pursuit, he fled to France, and continued there*.

Burning of Solemn League and Covenant—This has been often

* A singular instance of revenge occurred here in the beginning of last century. One Crawford, while at school, had been stripped of his coat by a person in the town, who found him trespassing on his ground. Having gone abroad, and risen in the army, he returned to Linlithgow many years after, and avenged the indignity, by stabbing the man who offered it on the very spot. Accounts vary with regard to some of the circumstances that followed, though they all agree with regard to his being beheaded at the cross. According to some, after lying concealed a night or two in the Burrowmuir, he was apprehended, convicted, and put to death. Others say, that some years after, being oppressed with the weight of blood, he surrendered himself to justice, requesting only to be indulged as to the mode of execution. His tomb is still to be seen on the S. of the church; and though that be now defaced, is said to have had engraved on it the figure of the instrument by which he suffered, and which himself procured for the purpose.

often objected to Linlithgow, and certainly took place here in 1662, on the anniversary of the Restoration. It may be considered rather as a wanton expression of zeal, to which the many were impelled by a few, than an act authorised by the magistrates, or approved by the judicious part of the community. The persons who distinguished themselves on this occasion, were Mr. Mylne, one of the bailies, and Mr. Ramsay, then minister of the parish. The conduct of the latter is the more remarkable, as he had not only taken the covenant himself, but pressed it upon others with extreme rigour. Changing his principles with the times, he was first made Dean of Glasgow, then Bishop of Dunblane, and afterwards raised to the see of Ross.

The magistrates and council of Linlithgow gave a sumptuous entertainment to the Duke of York, when in Scotland, before his accession to the throne. The town is said to have long felt the pressure of the debt incurred by that magnificent display *.

Miscellaneous

* *Singular Persons formerly connected with the Parish.*—*Binnock.* During the struggle between Edward I. and the Scotch patriots, the garrison stationed here by that prince were dispossessed of it by a curious device of one Binnock. He supplied the castle with hay, and being well known, had free access at all times. He proposed to Bruce to conceal some men in his cart. Being introduced without suspicion, and completely armed, they easily made themselves masters of it. This story, which is generally believed, reminds one of the stratagem ascribed to Ulysses in the Trojan war. Binnock was rewarded for this service with some lands in the S. of the parish, which still bear that name, a little softened. The Binnings of Wallyford were said to be descended from him; and, in allusion to that transaction, had for their arms, a *bay wain*, with this motto, *Virtute doloque.*

Ninian Winzet. About the time of the Reformation, one of that name was rector of this school, and is said to have been employed as preceptor to some of the royal family during their residence here. He published a
set

Miscellaneous Observations.—It has been already observed, with regard to this parish, that agriculture is in an advanced state. From the abilities and exertion of those engaged in that line, much may still be expected. Though the ground in the neighbourhood be not naturally fertile, that defect is compensated by art. The elegant house just built by the Solicitor General, about half a mile W. from the town, the enclosures and plantations that gentleman is carrying on, and the improvements made by other proprietors

set of questions in opposition to the new doctrine, which was favourably received at court, and much esteemed by those of his persuasion. Being a great adept in theological controversy, he was selected by the Scotch clergy to defend the Catholic opinions, and distinguished himself in several encounters with John Knox. Refusing to acknowledge his errors, he was banished, through the influence of the reforming party, and became afterwards abbot of the Scotch convent at Ratibon, where he presided many years.

Kirkwood, rector of the school here, distinguished himself at a future period by his learning, and still more by his long and obstinate conflict with the magistrates and town council, whom he satirised under the designation of *the twenty-seven gods*.

Stewart of Pordovan was a gentleman of property in this parish, repeatedly provost of the burgh, and represented it in the last Scotch parliament. He was not only averse to the Union, but joined in a solemn protest against that measure. Having made Presbyterian government the object of his peculiar attention, he wrote that well known book, in which the procedure in the several courts in this kingdom is so distinctly traced.

Of the several persons connected with this parish at a remote period, none is more frequently mentioned than *Rob Gib*, of facetious memory. He acted as buffoon to James V.; and being allowed, on a particular occasion, to personate the sovereign, gave a pointed reproof to the courtiers, who urged their respective claims to royal favour, that he had always served his master for *flark love and kindness*. His Majesty conferred on him the property of West Canibber in this parish, which was enjoyed by his descendents even in the course of this century. The original charter is said to be still extant.

proprietors in that quarter, have already embellished, and cannot fail to meliorate, a track of the parish, which before was comparatively in an uncultivated state.

Linlithgow is well known to be a healthy place; when infectious diseases visit it, which is rarely, the symptoms are more favourable, and the effects less fatal, than in most other towns. During the plague in 1646, which made such dreadful havock in the capital, the courts of justice were transferred to Linlithgow, and held in the palace. The professors of the university are said also to have removed here at that time. Many people near fourscore are to be seen daily in the streets. Two in the parish have passed their 90th year: The one enjoys all her faculties; the other is deaf and feeble, but in other respects pretty sound. A woman, near Canibber, above 85, still pursues her usual occupations, and walked lately a mile to attend a diet of catechising.

There is a well at Canibber, of qualities similar to Mosfat. It was formerly much resorted to in the spring, but has for some years been totally neglected.

The wages of maid servants are from 3*l.* to 4*l.* a-year, and that of men servants from 7*l.* to 8*l.*

There are 2 inns at Linlithgow, provided with suitable accommodations. There are also some other houses where persons, to whom post horses are not an object, may find good entertainment.

Besides the funds which the corporations have for the poor, with whom they are severally connected, they have adopted a general plan, of which the good effects are sensibly felt. They have a repository capable of containing 600 bolls of meal. This they fill at a proper time; and if application be made, the town advances for that purpose 100*l.*, without interest. Thus they have always a
quantity

quantity to answer demands, are enabled to regulate the price of the markets, and prevent private retailers from taking an improper advantage of circumstances that may occur.

Among the useful institutions here, Dr. Henry's library justly deserves to be named. That gentleman, well known to the world by his valuable history, having experienced the sweets of knowledge himself, benevolently wished others to share them. With that view, he bequeathed his books, under certain regulations, to the magistrates and town council, and ministers of the presbytery of Linlithgow, as the foundation of a larger collection. It is to be hoped, they will show themselves worthy of the trust, and promote a design of such general utility.

Besides the Established Church, there are two places of worship in the parish; one for those of the Burgher persuasion, which adjoins to the town, the other at Craigmallin, about 3 miles distant, to which the Antiburghers resort. The number of dissenters in the parish is about 430. That alienation of heart which diversity of religious opinions once produced in Scotland, seems now in a great measure banished.

While our countrymen are thus imbibing more and more of the spirit of love, may they ever retain that of a sound mind, and exert themselves in their respective lines, to support that glorious constitution, which is found, from experience, to conduce so effectually to the benefit of the individual, which is so admirably calculated to ensure, under God, the prosperity of the empire!

N U M B E R. XXXIV.

PARISH OF LANGTON.

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE, PRESBYTERY OF DUNSE.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER GIRVAN.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, Air.

L A N G T O N is situated in that district of Berwickshire called the Merse. Its name, perhaps, was taken from the long straggling town of Langton, which extended from near the boundary towards Dunse to within a few paces of the house of Langton, and the present parish church. The town was of long standing, and, like other border towns, suffered at different times from the incursions of the English, having been burnt in 1558, by Sir Henry Percy and Sir George Bowes; and at other times pillaged by marauding parties from Berwick and the other side of the Tweed. Mr. Gavin, the late proprietor, finding a town so near his house a hinderance to his improvements, offered to its inhabitants to sell, on easy terms, a pleasant and healthful spot of ground about half a mile distant. His offer was accepted; and in a short time, not

one stone was left upon another of the old town of Langton. The new village is named Gavintown, in honour of its founder, and contains at present 159 persons. The parish is in figure triangular. The mean length may be about 2½ miles, the mean breadth 2¼. It contains about 7200 English acres. From the E. to the N. W. limit, the ascent is gradual; from S. to N., the ascent is the same as far as the foot of the high grounds, known by the name of Langton Edge. On this edge, all the enclosed and cultivated part of the parish is presented to the eye, as well as the whole breadth of the Merse, and of Northumberland as far as Wooler. And here the reflecting traveller, after recollecting with regret, how often the flat below him has been rendered, by direful war, a desolate and ensanguined plain, is pleased with the variety and abundance with which peace and well directed industry, in modern times, have clothed it. The soil of the parish is various. In the lower and cultivated part of it, the soil is generally a loam of a reddish colour, well adapted to turnip husbandry, and to the raising of oats and barley, and sown grasses. There are some fields of a very deep and rich loam, which make good returns when sown with wheat. All the fields are enclosed either with a stone fence, or with a ditch or hawthorn hedge; and here some of the hedges, with the hedge-row trees, are found to thrive as well as in any part of the kingdom. The higher part of the parish, which consists of 5 sheep-farms, is covered with fine green pasture, and is accounted as dry and sound sheep ground as is to be met with in the S. of Scotland. The air, as we have no standing water near us, and are placed in the upper part of the Merse, is reckoned as pure and healthful as in any quarter of the county.

Agriculture,

Agriculture, Cattle, Rent, &c.—Little was done for the improvement of the land here before 1758. Langton-burn, a strong and clear stream which runs through the parish from N. W. to E., had its banks planted with forest trees to a considerable extent, about 80 years ago. The trees throve well, and have been long, and are still a shelter and ornament to the house and enclosures of Langton, as well as a beauty in the face of the country. Several fields too had been enclosed with fences of different kinds a short time after the Restoration, and had been for many years let from year to year for grafs to troop horses. The soldiers, who were accommodated in barracks on the estate, and in the town of Langton, spoke of the pasture as the best their horses came to in the kingdom, and were particularly pleased with the pure water which is to be had in plenty in every grafs field. In 1758, Mr. Gavin purchased the estate, lying in the parishes of Langton, Dunse, and Longformacus. From that period till the time of his death in 1773, he was employed in the improvement of it. The plans he laid down were judicious, and the prosecution of them unremitted. The grounds were cleared of furze, and broom, and stones, and of every thing that could impede the operations of the plough. The rock marl, with which the estate abounds, and lime from the Northumberland hills, at the distance of 16 miles, were laid on as the soil required; the fields were divided with skill, and enclosed in the most substantial manner. In a short time, Langton assumed a most cultivated appearance, rewarded the attention, and repaid the expense the proprietor had bestowed upon it. The rent in 1758 was 1100*l.*; in 1773 it was let at upwards of 3000*l.* There are in the parish 30 ploughs, all of them according to Mr. Small's construction. The number of horses is

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about

about 70, exclusive of young ones; the number of black cattle (December 1793) 380; a number less than usual, on account of the apprehended scarcity of fodder: The breed, a mixture of the Merse and Lammermuir kinds. The sheep amount to upwards of 3500, and are of the Northumberland, Tweeddale, and Lammermuir breeds.—The highest yearly rent for land within the parish, paid by one farmer, is 900l; the lowest, 35l. There are several small possessions, which bring from 15l. to 35l. of rent; but the tenants of them are employed chiefly in driving lime to the greater farmers, coals to tradesmen and others who have not horses of their own, and stones and gravel to the highways. All the enclosed grounds of the parish are let from 2l. 2s. to 15s. the English acre. The leases are usually for 19 years. The rent is all in money; no kail or services are asked by the proprietors. There are 2 corn mills in the parish, to which the tenants are thirled; but this restriction has not, in my time, been considered as any hardship. The valued rent of the parish in the cess-books is 3092l. 14s. 2d. Scotch. The present rent is nearly 2660l. Sterling, of which 2600l. belong to the estate of Langton; the remainder to two gentlemen who hold of the proprietor of that estate. Of the three heritors, two reside in the immediate neighbourhood, and the principal heritor resides in the parish occasionally.

Population, &c.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 290. The number of souls in the parish, according to a correct list taken in the month of July 1793, is 435. Of these 211 are males, and 224 females. In the same month, there were 65 married couples, 8 widowers, and 20 widows. All the widowers have

have children, and all the widows, except two. The ages stood nearly as follows :

Under 10,	120	Between 50 and 60,	40
Between 10 and 20,	76	60 and 70,	22
20 and 30,	66	70 and 80,	17
30 and 40,	47	80 and 90,	1 *
40 and 50,	46		

The number of inhabited houses is 87 ; a few are at present uninhabited. There are 12 farmers, besides those who occupy small possessions, 9 masons, 7 house carpenters and plough-wrights, 8 weavers, 3 shoemakers, 2 blacksmiths, 2 tailors, 2 thatchers, 1 cooper, 3 hedgers, apprentices included, and 4 day labourers. The rest of the men are in general hinds, ploughmen, barnmen, and shepherds. The unmarried women, who are not hired from year to year, are employed in spinning to manufacturers and others throughout the winter, and in the summer and harvest are occupied in hoeing potatoes and turnips, hay-making, reaping corn, &c. The great bulk of the people are hearers of the Established Church, but a considerable number are attached to the Relief, Burghers, Antiburghers, and Cameronians, and go to Dunse and Chirnside to hear sermon †.

Stipend,

* The register of baptisms, marriages, and burials, has never been kept with any degree of exactness ; and I wish not to have any thing inserted in this account, for the truth of which I cannot answer.

† A schoolmaster, who officiated as precentor in the parish, about 30 years ago, is said to have been (very innocently, in my judgment) the occasion of much secession here. Anxious to improve the church psalmody, one Sunday afternoon, without consulting the minister, he, with a few vocal friends who were acquainted with his intention, made a trial of singing the psalm without reading the line. This innovation so shocked many of the hearers, that they never afterwards could be reconciled to the Established Church.

Stipend, Church, School, Poor, &c.—The stipend is 50 bolls of oats, 32 bolls 2 firlots 2 pecks of barley, and 28l. 17s. 8d. money. The corn glebe was formerly about 5 acres of the best land in the parish, to which was added the pasturage of 2 horses and 2 cows, summer and winter, over an extensive range of rich grass; but, near 30 years ago, the manse being removed to the village of Gavintown, 10 acres of very indifferent outfield land, lying contiguous, and 4l. 2s. of money, were accepted in lieu of the old glebe and pasturage. The patronage belongs to the Countess of Breadalbane. The church was built in 1736, and is at this time in a ruinous state. The manse, built in 1766, was, at that time, among the best, if not the very best manse in the county. It is still in tolerable repair. The schoolmaster has a small house in Gavintown to teach in. His salary is 100 merks, and 10s. of fee for acting as precentor and session-clerk. His scholars may be reckoned, on an average, 20 in number, whom he instructs in reading, writing, and arithmetick. The established fees of the schoolmaster are 1s. 2d. a-quarter for reading and writing, and 2s. 6d. a-quarter for arithmetick. With this small income, being himself a virtuous man, and having an industrious wife, he has brought up a family, and been always respectable. The poor on the roll are usually 9; 2 or 3 more receive an occasional supply. The yearly collection in the church amounts to about 5l., the one half of which is reserved for such persons as decline being put on the roll; the other half is added to the parochial assessment. The assessment, on an average of 5 years, is 28l. 14s.; the one half paid by the heritors, the other half by the tenants. The poor have at all times been well satisfied with the provision made for them. When, on a particular occasion, any thing extraordinary has

has been wanted for them, it must be told, to the honour of the proprietors of Langton, that the request of the kirk-session was never refused*.

Antiquities.—On the farm of Raecleugh-head in the parish, there have been, in ancient times, two military stations. The extent of both can be easily ascertained, as the ditches are discernible at a distance to this day. These stations, it is thought, were occupied during the wars carried on between the two kingdoms. In the reign of King William III., there was a considerable encampment of both horse and foot on the farm of Langhope-birks. The troops, it is said, were encamped there at the desire of Patrick Earl of Marchmont, a nobleman who very deservedly possessed much of the confidence of his sovereign. The

* *Price of Provisions and Wages*—The price of provisions in this parish, less than 40 years ago, did not amount to one half of the present cost. Our flesh-market is in Dunse, and, in that market, the advance upon the different articles sold, has, within these few years, been very great. Beef and mutton are from 3d. to 4½d., pork from 3d. to 4d., veal from 3d. to 5d. the lib. Amsterdam weight. Lamb is never below 3d.; hens are sold at 10d. and 1s. each; eggs from 3d. to 7d. the dozen, according to the demand for them at Berwick for the London market; butter from 8d. to 10d. the lib. of 23 ounces. Hinds, or farmers men servants, with families, hired by the year, have from 16l. to 18l. of gains or wages; an unmarried man servant, victualled in his master's house, has from 6l. to 8l.; a maid servant for house-work has from 3l. to 3l. 5s. yearly, but when hired for out-work, such as hoeing turnips and potatoes, milking ewes, &c. 4l., and sometimes more: labouring men have, by the day, from 1s. to 1s. 2d. in summer, and 10d. in winter: women employed by the day in hoeing turnips, hoeing and digging potatoes, have from 6d. to 8d.: in harvest the men have from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d.; the women from 10d. to 1s., with victuals. A mason's wages are from 1s. 6d. to 2s.; a carpenter's from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 8d. a-day, without victuals; a tailor's from 6d. to 8d., with victuals.

The state of the kingdom at that time might render the collection of forces in different parts of the kingdom a measure of great prudence. In 1792, on clearing the ground of a heap of stones which had been collected upon the top of the Crimson, or Cramestone Hill, on the N. side of the village of Gavintown, several earthen urns, of different sizes, were dug up. The urns contained human bones, but had no inscription upon them. In the lands of Middlefield and Crease, there are several coffins of stone, containing human bones. On measuring one of them, it was found to be $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, 2 deep, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad. In the neighbourhood of the places where the coffins are found, there is a field which still retains the name of Battlemoor.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The people are in general above the middle stature, and dress, perhaps, better than their circumstances can well afford. Three brothers in the village of Gavintown, without any stock to begin with, and without friends, have, by the making of shoes, in less than 20 years, acquired upwards of 800l. I wish I could record, that all the workmen of the parish have been equally economical, industrious, and successful. Mr. Alexander Low in Wood-end, who rents of the estate of Langton to the amount of 900l. a-year, hath, by experiment and observation, acquired much knowledge of rural economy. He hath greatly improved several of the implements of husbandry, and is the inventor of a steelyard for weighing hay, &c., which it does with exactness, and is easily removed from field to field. The steelyard is made by James Allan wright in Gavinton, near Dunfermline, and sold by him at 6l. 6s. There are different quarries in the parish of the best free-stone. Peat and turf may be had in the

the vicinity of the parish, and at a moderate price, but coal from Northumberland, though, on account of the distance, and the badness of the roads, it cost about 8s. 6d. for a two horse cart, is the fuel most used.

There is one publick house in the village. If it be in any degree a nuisance, we have ourselves to blame, as the sheriffs of the county will grant it no license, without a certificate subscribed by one or two persons in the parish, of respectable character.

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF MERTOUN.

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE, PRESBYTERY OF LAUDER.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES DUNCAN.

Name, Extent, Surface and Soil.

THE name of this parish has been uniformly the same, and the etymology commonly given of it is, *The Town of the Mire*. At a period very remote, this derivation might perhaps be proper, though the general appearance at present by no means justifies it. In length it is nearly 6 miles, and in breadth from 2 to 3. The western part stands high, and is extremely picturesque. From Bimerfyde-hill, the property of Mr. Haig, over which one of the most publick roads in the parish passes, the eye of the traveller is at once gratified with every thing beautiful and magnificent, wood, water, hills, ruins, and fertile fields. The rest of the parish, gradually declining to the S., is also extremely pleasant; the prospect being agreeably diversified with excellent enclosures, beautiful hedge-rows, and

and thriving plantations. The soil towards the Tweed, particularly the haughs, is sharp, with a gravelly bottom; towards the N., and indeed through the rest of the parish, with very few exceptions, it is a stiff clay, with a till bottom.

Improvements.—While other places have been advancing in improvement, this parish has not been neglected. About 40 years ago, the tenants were miserably lodged, the fields open and exposed to every blast, and hardly a tree to be seen, a few about the houses of the different proprietors excepted. Now the scene is agreeably changed; the tenants possess warm and comfortable houses, many of them large, and most of them slated; the greater part of the arable land is enclosed, and surrounded with belts and clumps of plantation. The estate of Mr. Scott of Harden in particular, which comprises nearly two-thirds of the whole, exhibits a greater extent of neat thriving hedges and plantations, than perhaps is to be met with in the S. of Scotland.

Agriculture and Produce.—Previous to the year 1766, the old Scotch plough only was used, and no manure thought of but what the farms produced. Since that period, immense quantities of lime have been annually driven from Lothian and England, at the great distance of 26 miles. It answers extremely well; and though each cart, of 5 bolls, all expences included, costs 10s. 6d., the farmer finds his account in using it. Two horse ploughs are generally used, and the most approved methods of husbandry keenly followed. The quantity of grain annually sown, and the average return of each boll, is nearly as follows:

<i>Bolls Sown.</i>	<i>Average Return of each Boli.</i>		
Oats from 700 to 750,	-	-	5
Barley from 160 to 180,	-	-	6
Wheat from 100 to 130,	-	-	7
Pease from 100 to 130,	-	-	5

Besides the above, there are generally from 180 to 200 acres in red clover for hay, and from 100 to 120 acres in turnip. The total number of acres in pasture and tillage, may be about 5550.

Black cattle, young and old, from 540 to 560.

Sheep, from 1400 to 1500.

Horses, young and old, from 120 to 130.

The cattle are mostly of the Balmershire breed, and the greater part of them reared in the parish. The sheep are of different kinds, and most of them brought from different quarters. Mr. Scott of Harden made several attempts to improve them; for an account of which, see *Present State of Husbandry in Scotland*, Vol. II. The horses in general are strong, and many of them, when taken to market, bring high prices*.

Population.—The population, according to the most exact information that can be procured, is considerably diminished. About 60 years ago, there were 4 populous villages, 2 of which are now extinct, and the remaining

2 gra-

* *Price of Labour.*—Ploughmen from 8l. to 10l. a-year, besides board and lodging; barmen the same, or if paid in kind, 1 boll for every 24 he threshe; a hind, 8 firlots of oats, 8 firlots of barley, 4 firlots of pease, 1 peck lint-seed sown, 1 firlot potatoes planted, 1 guinea for sheep, and a cow kept summer and winter; women, 1l. 5s. and a pair of shoes, during the winter, and from 1l. 10s. to 3l. during the summer; wrights 1s. with meat; masons 1s. 8d. without meat; day-labourers 1s. 2d. in summer, 1s. 6d. in harvest, and 1s. in winter; women, when employed at hay or turnip, 8d., and 1s. 4d. in harvest.

2 gradually disappearing. With respect to the abolition of the first, the numbers cannot be greatly lessened, as it chiefly consisted of 6 farmers, their cottagers, and 2 or 3 mechanicks, who are now settled more conveniently in the centre of their respective farms. The non-existence of the second must have made no small diminution, as there are people yet alive who remember to have seen 50 houses all inhabited; and some of these say, that they have heard their fathers mention double that number; and indeed this tradition seems to be well founded, as the ruins of several houses are still visible. The third, which was nearly equal to the second, is so mutilated, that scarcely a tenth part remains. The fourth hath not suffered so essentially, though the blank is too perspicuous not to be observed. At the same time, it is certain, that the return to Dr. Webster in 1755 is stated only at 502 souls, consequently there is a difference of 55 in favour of the population at present.

The numbers and ages, as taken in 1791, are :

Under 12,	145	Of the above,	
From 12 to 15,	19	Batchelors who keep house,	4
15 to 20,	34	Widowers,	- 4
20 to 30,	81	Widows,	- 7
30 to 40,	133	Farmers,	- 16
40 to 60,	90	Pendiclers,	- 10
60 to 70,	37	Smiths,	- - 4
70 to 80,	14	Wrights,	- - 4
80 to 90,	4	Weavers,	- - 4
	—	Clothier,	- - 1
Total,	557	Egglers,	- - 2
		Families,	- - 104

ABSTRACT of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, and DEATHS.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
1784,	13	6	5
1785,	7	4	5
1786,	10	9	3
1787,	10	7	1
1788,	9	7	8
1789,	14	3	8
1790,	13	2	6
1791,	12	5	9
1792,	17	6	5 *

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church was built in the 1658, and has undergone many repairs: at present it is both neat and warm. The manse was built in the 1767, and was repaired in the 1791, the year after the present incumbent was admitted. It is delightfully situated; and if an extensive view of the adjacent country, Mr. Scott's pleasure-ground, and the windings of the Tweed, could compensate for dampness, execrable architecture, and distance from the church, might be said to be very comfortable. The stipend was augmented 10l. in the 1776, and is at present 32 bolls barley, Linlithgow measure, 48 bolls meal, 460l. Scotch in money, communion elements included, with a glebe of 14 English acres, and a garden half an English acre. There is a school, with a salary of 8l. 6s. 8d., besides a dwelling-house and garden. The number of scholars,

* *Climate and Diseases.*—The air is sharp and clear, and consequently not inimical to health. Agues, before the lands were enclosed and drained, were very prevalent; the most common diseases now are, consumptions, slow fevers, rheumatism, dysenteries, scrofula, &c. Measles, small pox, and chincough, sometimes make their appearance, but are seldom very fatal.

lars, throughout the year, may be from 30 to 40.—Poor's rates were established in the 1771, and are nearly 21l. a-year; which, with the average annual collections 11l., is generally sufficient. The heritors, however, by no means restrict themselves to this, but cheerfully assess themselves to the full amount of what the minister and session deem necessary. The landlords and tenants pay in equal proportions; and though the latter are not consulted when the assessment is made, they have never been known to grudge their share.

Fisheries.—There are no rivers in the parish, but the Tweed, forming the southern boundary; there are 3 considerable salmon fisheries, which together may amount to 20l. or 25l. a-year. They might unquestionably be greatly improved, were the mode of fishing altered. The proprietors, however, have never as yet bestowed any attention on this object; and consequently the fishers follow the practice of their forefathers, angling, setting small nets in cairns, when the river is in flood, and killing them with listers, when the river is small and the evening serene; and this they call burning the water, because they are obliged to carry a lighted torch in the boat. Long nets, such as are used near to Berwick, and upon the Tay and Tummel in the N., might certainly be employed in many places with great safety and advantage.

Proprietors and Rent.—There are 5 heritors, all of whom have dwelling-houses in the parish. The valued rent is 5675l. 10s. 6d. Scotch. : real rent about 2400l. Sterling.

Minerals.—There is an inexhaustible store of free-stone all along the banks of the Tweed; but one quarry only,

only, the property of Lord Buchan, has been wrought for several years. The stone is of a reddish colour, very durable, and will admit of the finest polish.

Antiquity.—The abbey of Dryburgh, so much admired by travellers, lies in the S. W. corner of this parish ; but as an account of it, written by the present proprietor, the Earl of Buchan, is published in Grose's Antiquities, it is needless to be very minute. The only thing which deserves our notice is, that his Lordship, while he has displayed much taste, and expended a great deal of money in digging up a variety of stones of curious sculpture, and placing them in such a manner as to gratify and attract the eye of the visitor, has certainly, in some respects, lessened that veneration which so ancient an edifice is apt to inspire.

Character and Manners.—The inhabitants in general are remarkably industrious, sober, and contented. From time immemorial, they have been distinguished for their moderation, both in civil and religious matters ; and no instance has been known of any being guilty of those enormous crimes which are the sin and reproach of a nation.

Disadvantages.—Though most of the necessaries of life are produced in the parish, hardly any of them are sold in it. Even meal, in small quantities, can only be procured from neighbouring mills, there being none here : An inconvenience, however, which will be of short duration, as a mill is now building in the most central situation in the parish. Butcher meat cannot be obtained without sending to Kelfo, Jedburgh, or Melrose, the nearest of which is 6 miles. There are few household articles, but what
must

must be brought from some other quarter. The roads, for 5 months in the year, are extremely bad : An evil, however, which it is to be hoped, will be corrected. The distance from coal and lime is a hardship severely felt, both of which must be driven at the distance of 26 miles. Want of carriers is another inconvenience ; every person being obliged to send on purpose for the most trivial articles.

NUMBER XXXVI.

PARISH OF RESCOBIE.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS
AND MEARNES.)

By the Rev. Mr. THOMAS WRIGHT.

Name, Extent, Lakes, Climate, &c.

THE name is of uncertain origin, and its etymology so doubtful, that the writer has not been able to learn, and therefore cannot say whether it be Latin, Gaelic, Celtic, &c.; but it is applied to denote a certain district of country called a Parish; and, like most local names, has probably been framed at first from some real or supposed affinity to the situation.—The figure of the parish is irregular, but the contents may be about 16 or 18 square miles, mostly in cultivation, with some thriving fir plantations, and very little waste ground. It has no river nor considerable stream, but yet is sufficiently watered for domestick and agricultural purposes; and particularly, it is intersected by the loch of Rescobie, which is a mile long, washed by the loch of Balgavies, in the parish of Aberlemno, on the N. and E., and was so on the S. and W. by the loch of Restennet, in the parish of Forfar;

far ; but lately this last mentioned loch was taken off by a drain, a project which at first was by many thought rather problematical ; but the success has afforded ample justification, by affording speedy indemnification, together with the permanent source of a very handsome revenue to the owner, a gentleman of celebrity in the political world, and long and well known by the honourable appellation of a *friend to his country*. Still, however, the springs and rills, which formerly fed this drained lake, continue to discharge themselves by the drain into the loch of Rescobie, from whence, through the loch of Balgavies, issues the chief branch of Lunan water, which gives name to a bay on the German Ocean, into which it falls about 12 miles E. from this kirk.

All these lakes abound in marl ; a manure of approved and extensive use in husbandry, eagerly sought after by the industrious farmer ; and where it is skilfully applied, producing very great effects, being nearly similar to lime in its operation on the soil : but here, and in some other statistical articles, such as hire, wages, &c. the writer finds himself happily prevented by the previous accounts of others.

From so many lakes, with their adjacent marshes, our climate may be supposed rather unwholesome ; but, in fact, it is otherwise. The situation of the parish is mostly vallicular, lying between two hills, that of Dunnichen on the S., and of Turin on the N., which rise about 600 feet above the lakes, and, running parallel, form a kind of spout or sucker, which frequently occasions a strong current in the atmosphere that purifies it, and, thus rendering the air salubrious, keeps the inhabitants healthy. And hence, instances of longevity, equal to that of any other country : a woman died here, this winter, at the very ad-

vanced age, as is said, of 104, and we have living instances upwards of 80 and 90 ; our people are not liable to frequent sickness, nor have we any local or peculiar maladies.

Soil and Agriculture.—The soil is various ; part of it rich and fertile, part of it poor and barren ; but Nature has furnished the thrifty farmer with a ready and effectual remedy for the poverty of the soil, and the worst may be, and is made productive by the due application of manure. In consequence, the value of land is much increased ; the new farmer does not boggle at promising double or triple the former rent, and it is the laird's business to look to the payment. And though, from want both of means and skill in adventurers, failures may sometimes happen, this does not discourage others from stepping forward even on higher terms ; so that, in general, farming is a profitable employment, and the people are substantial and in easy circumstances, the effect as well as the reward of diligence and industry, in an improved system of management, agreeably to the old observation, " The hand of the diligent maketh rich." And indeed the genius of the country at large, encouraged by an increased product and ready markets, " blessed both in their basket and store," is strongly bent to agricultural improvement, on which, it is to be hoped, the New Board of Agriculture will soon shed its friendly influence. This is one of the happiest directions which the genius of a country or people can take : it occupies their talents, and time usefully and laudably, and, affording ample scope for their schemes and fancies, prevents them from running wild, and takes them off from those jars and controversies, whether of politics or religion,

gion, which always have been, and ever must be, more pernicious than serviceable to society.

The kinds of grain in use are oats and bear, mostly barley, some pease, and a little wheat here and there, with a large proportion in sown grass: Hence corn and cattle are the staple articles of our product, there being very few sheep. The cultivation of lint is also in practice, and generally succeeds well. On the article of culture, I have to add with pleasure, that

Intellectual improvement proceeds apace: About 16 years ago, in the course of visiting the parish, there were found 3 people who could not read, and were become too old to learn; at present, it is not known if there be any of the natives of this description: Children are sent early in life to school, where they learn to read, and may acquire such other branches as they are capable of and apply to: their proficiency is often very considerable; and this early tuition will happily be both useful and ornamental through life. It is therefore to be wished, that they who have it in their power would take into their serious consideration, the clamant case of parish schoolmasters, whose present scanty provision is by no means adequate to the exigencies of their condition, or to the importance, toil, and labour of their office.

Population.—There are no nobility, but several lairds, resident in the parish; and there are 8 heritors: The inhabitants, all ages, are about 934. The return to Dr. Webster was 798 *. Unless in very favourable and encouraging circumstances, our marriages seldom come up to a dozen a-year; and births, at an average, do not exceed

* An evidence, that industry is friendly to population.

ceed 30 : There being no register of deaths, their number is not exactly known.

Dress, Manners, &c.—Our people are usually decent in their dress, sometimes showy ; and in a holiday suit, cumulous of their betters. In their conversation, sensible ; in their manners, discreet and humane ; in their various employments, diligent and industrious (the spirit of industry not being confined to farming) ; and to their praise, it should be known, that in these times of alarm and danger, their conduct is quiet, peaceable, and loyal : in religion, serious, sober, moderate, charitable, sympathising, observant of religious ordinances ; and chiefly of the Presbyterian persuasion. The parish church is the only place of worship in our bounds ; but we have some Episcopalians, and a few Seceders. As to the Episcopalians, they are so prevalent and powerful be-south the Tweed, it would hardly be safe, even at this distance, to say that they can err ; and as to the Seceders, poor folk ! they are so few and small be-north the Tay, it might be reckoned an illiberal attack on weakness, were any attempt made to expose their errors, nor is this the place : But let it not offend them, if it be observed, that their distinguishing marks are not very ornamental, nor their proper peculiarities extremely praise-worthy *.

Pocr.

* So that I cannot adopt the sentiment of one of the Statistical Writers, viz. That “ the existence of Seceders, and of Seceding meeting-houses, has perhaps no bad effect upon the manners and sentiments of the people ; that they are in some degree spies and checks upon the members of the Established Church ; and the discourses of their clergy are often adapted, with singular felicity, to the capacity and the prejudices of the least enlightened classes in the community.”

Their manners, as they are seen in sowing strife and division ; their spy-office, as it is glaringly invidious ; and their sentiments, as they are notoriously

Poor.—Our poor roll varies from 4 or 5 to 10 and upwards; and among these is distributed annually 17l. or 18l., arising from the kirk collections, and the interest of a small sum in the management of the session, our only funds for poor: and should these become insufficient, recourse must be had on the heritors, who are said to be liable in the last resort. Luckily, we do not feel our own poor very burdensome; but we are oppressed with wanderers: I have known 2 dozen of them before 12 o'clock; and last summer, near twoscore of them called in the course of one day. It was, indeed, a hard time; and it would be a hard, nay, a bad thing, to send them hungry away: for though many of them be extremely worthless, most of them are extremely indigent, and they must not be cast out to perish: "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, and shall not be heard."—It is to be wished, rather than expected, that some general plan, of such efficacious benevolence as would prevent

notoriously selfish and uncharitable, can have no good effect upon any people; and as to the discourses of their clergy, they are usually calculated to "darken counsel by words without wisdom," rather to increase darkness than diffuse light; to encourage and foster errors and unchristian prejudices, rather than to correct and remove them.—There is another Church Writer of wide fame, whose sentiments seem more suitable to this case: "It is, no doubt, highly convenient for persons, who do not pretend to a rigid observance of the duties of religion and morality, to have spiritual guides, who diminish the guilt of transgression, disguise the deformity of vice, let loose the reins to all the passions, nay, even nourish them by their dissolute precepts, and render the way to heaven as easy, as agreeable, and as smooth as is possible." But what now is to be done? Nothing; but—let alone. "Every plant, not divinely planted, shall in due time be plucked up." Whenever the deluded people shall come to have the use of their senses, in these as in other matters, Secederism, like French nobility, will then become *évident*.

vent strolling, not by hard restrictions, but by making the needy, were established in the country; and till this be done, we must be doing. Perth usually furnishes out a pretty large quota; but there is no place sends forth such legions of those itinerants, as Aberdeen, meaning the county as well as the town of that name. The county is extensive, fertile, and populous; the town commercial and opulent: What harm would there be in giving Aberdeen a hint, that it would be both creditable and recommendable in them, to take measures, as they ought, to provide for their own poor at home, rather than set them off, like a flight of locusts, to prey upon their neighbours, who are under no local obligation to receive or relieve them?

Rent, Stipend, &c.—The valued rent of the parish is 2708*l.* Scotch. Lord Strathmore is patron. We have a good school-house, with dwelling-house and garden for the master, and 100*l.* Scotch of salary.—The farmers of the parish give, besides board, from 8*l.* to 12*l.* Sterling a-year to their ploughmen.—The manse is in tolerable repair, and the offices good, being lately built, and covered with slate. The stipend consists of 43*l.* money, 50 bolls 11 pecks meal, and 24 bolls of bear. There was a small augmentation got, with the good will of the heritors, about 8 years ago; and there yet remains a good stock of unexhausted teinds. The glebe measures about 7 acres. It would contribute much to the convenience and comfort of the country clergy, if, instead of such a trifling, pitiful spot of ground, glebes were enlarged to at least 20 acres; and if, in giving augmentations, a few acres of land could be added to the glebe, rather than as many pounds to the stipend, it would be found a beneficial exchange. The patrons of the new bill in favour of the clergy (with submission)

mision) should keep this in their eye. The church is pretty well as to the fabrick, but not large enough for the accommodation of the parishioners, being only 50 by 20 feet within the walls, and not well seated. The present incumbent served the cure about 2½ years, from 17th April 1774, as assistant to his predecessor, Mr. William M'Keay; after whose decease he received, with the consent of the whole community, heritors and parishioners, chiefly on the application of Mr. Hunter of Burnside, a presentation to the vacant charge.

In consequence of this presentation, the presentee was installed on the 3d of April 1777, and is still a bachelor. Bachelorism is surely a pitiable, comfortless condition*; but unless the Court of Teinds (it is said, to their praise, they are favourably disposed at present; a rare thing!) shall vouchsafe to deliver us from it, without the aid of a Pope's bull, it must soon become more frequent.

Miscellaneous Observations.—In a survey of this sort, there is a circumstance that deserves to be particularly mentioned, as it contributes not a little to health and comfort; the dwelling-houses are much better and more commodious, and neater and cleaner kept than formerly: even the cattle are now better lodged, than the people were wont to be. This is a most sensible improvement; and, besides giving an agreeable aspect to the face of the country, is no bad prognostick of the wealth of the inhabitants. As to people, there can be no doubt that cleanliness and good air are to be ranked among the necessities of life; and as to cattle, they will be found always to thrive best in free and pure air, and nothing can hurt them more than to pen them up in narrow hampered booths, where

* And they that are in, would fain be out on't.

the air soon becomes foul and nauseous: hence often shades are, in some cases, preferable to close stalls; and the larger the stalls, the purer will be the air, and the cattle in better condition. It must be acknowledged, that our situation invites to these improvements, as the neighbourhood abounds in excellent materials, especially the hills of Turin and Pitscandbe (this last is a continuation of the other on the W. end), which contain inexhaustible stores of stone of various kinds, and of every dimension fit for use; and where there are quarries now working, affording to look at, and affording ample subject of contemplation and amusement to the naturalist and virtuoso. Gentlemen of this cast would sometimes deign to come and see, if they knew what is to be seen. Besides the discoveries to be made in the bowels of these hills, the stupendous rocks that rise upon them, in proud contempt of human productions, may well be viewed as natural prodigies, and must strike with amazement the eye of the stranger.

There is nothing observable in the way of antiquity, unless a ruin on the top of Turin-hill may be considered in that light. It has evidently been anciently a strong hold, or place of defence, consisting of various extensive contiguous buildings, with a circular citadel of about 40 yards in diameter. The situation has been well chosen, being secured by an impregnable rock in front, much like the face of Salisbury Craigs, and of difficult access all around. It is now called Kemp or Camp Castle. Also, in the E. end of the parish, on the estate of Balmadies, there is a chapel-yard or burying-ground, in which it would seem no grave has been opened a second time; and the tomb stones are so deposited, that a family history might be collected from them for a long period back: There are particularly

particularly 2 large head-stones, with 7 or 8 small ones, standing in a right line at the head of so many parallel graves, which are said to contain the ashes of the parents and their children. At or near this cemetery, there has probably been a chapel or place of worship; but all tradition concerning it is lost.

We have no uncommon migratory birds; and it is doubtful, whether all birds, usually reckoned of this class, do really belong to it. The ground of this doubt well appears, from the following observations respecting the swallow: Owing to a hint given me by a neighbour, I have been, for some seasons, pretty attentive to the first appearance of this bird; but not accurate enough to mark the dates, till last spring, when, on the 2d of May 1793, I saw them, for the first time, pretty early in the morning, in considerable numbers on the loch (about 18 yards from the bottom of the garden), from which they seemed to be just then in the process of emerging; though, as there was some rippling on the water, it was difficult to discern the breaking of the surface; but the observer is positive, they just then arose from the lake, and therefore must have lodged or lain somehow at the bottom, since the time of their disappearing last year. The weather, all day, continued as it began in the morning, moderate, with an easy breeze from S. W.; and the swallows, sometimes in bodies, sometimes in detachments, enjoyed themselves in skimming along the surface, or soaring aloft in the air, or fluttering about the shores, but went very little way off the water till evening, when they collected over the lake, and disappeared within observation. With anxious expectation, they were looked next morning, and all day through, but no appearance of them, nor for several days following; and, therefore, there can be no doubt of their

descending into their lodgings at the bottom, having, from that day's experiment, felt or judged the air not sufficiently encouraging for them to live in. Nor were they seen till the 11th of May, when they were again observed in the process of emerging from the lake, and continued playing their gambols, and fluttering about the shores of it, till evening, when they disappeared as formerly, and were seen no more till the morning of the 21st of May, when the manner of their appearing was exactly the same as before mentioned. This last experiment succeeded; they felt, it should seem, the temperature of the air encouraging, and in a few days began to prepare their summer dwellings. They have been known, some seasons, to show themselves sooner than last year; and to go away ten days or a fortnight: but till last summer, when, it may be remembered, there was some very cold, sharp, piercing weather, the narrator never observed them to disappear twice after their first coming: And he is now fully satisfied, that the swallow, instead of being classed with birds of passage, should be enrolled among the sleepers. But if any reader's scepticism shall suspend his belief of this narrative, let him consider, it is no theory, but matter of fact, which is here narrated: And the reporter must be excused for thinking it clearly decisive of a question in the natural history of this bird. If future observation shall afford sufficient reason for palinoding, it shall be candidly done.

N U M B E R XXXVII.

PARISH OF CLACKMANNAN.

(COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN, SYNOD OF PERTH AND
STIRLING, PRESBYTERY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr. ROBERT MOODIE.

Name, Extent, and Surface.

CLACKMANNAN, signifies the Kirk Town, or village of Annan; from a well known Gaelic word, and Annand, the original name of the family of Annandale. In the beginning of the 12th century, one of the first of the Bruces who settled in Scotland married Agnes Annand, heir to the Lordship of Annandale; and soon after that period, the Bruces were in possession of Clackmannan: so that there is little doubt of this being the origin of the name.—This parish is of a very irregular form. It extends from S. W. to N. E. nearly 6 miles, and about 5 miles from S. E. to N. W. At one place, however, it is not above 2 miles in breadth: and a district of about 1300 acres of it, on the N. W. side, is disjoined from the rest of the parish by a part of the parish of Alloa, of about 2 furlongs in breadth, which joins
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the parish of Tillicoultry.—There are no hills in the parish : the ground, however, is very much varied ; but none of it so steep as to interrupt the purposes of agriculture.

Villages.—Clackmannan is the head town of the county. It is beautifully situated on an eminence, gently rising out of a plain, from E. to W., to the height of 190 feet, above the level of the river Forth. On each side of the village, the ground has a gradual descent ; but is more bold and rapid from the W. end, where the old tower of Clackmannan is placed.—The scenery, beheld from this tower, is uncommonly picturesque and beautiful ; and has been viewed with admiration by every traveller of taste. The whole country around forms, as it were, one grand amphitheatre, where all the objects are distinctly seen, yet not so near, as to disgust the eye. They are, at the same time, infinitely varied. Beyond the town of Stirling, 9 miles to the W., the high mountains of Ben-More, Ben-Lady, and Ben-Lomond, are seen at the distance of 20 miles, raising their romantick tops above the clouds. From the bold scenery of the town and castle of Stirling, and the high jutting, rugged rocks around it, the river Forth descends through a valley of several 1000 acres of the richest carse land ; sometimes splitting asunder, and forming, here and there, small beautiful islands, which are always green. The fields, on every side of it, exhibit, in time of harvest, the most luxuriant, variegated, prospect, which the eye can behold. The various windings of the river are, at the same time, diversified in every possibility of serpentine form, that can add the most exquisite beauty to the surrounding scenery. It passes by the village of Clackmannan, at the distance of an English mile to the S., where it is a mile in breadth.

Three

Three miles below, it spreads out, and forms the appearance of an extensive inland lake, about 30 miles in circumference; having, on its different sides, the villages, harbours, and numerous shipping of Kincardine, Borrochtounnells, and Grangemouth. Ships of various burdens are perpetually passing in full sail up and down the river; while its banks are adorned by the seats and wooded pleasure-grounds of the several noblemen and gentlemen; some of which are laid out with much elegance and taste.

On the N. side of the village of Clackmannan, a small beautiful river issues from a deep glen, or hollow, shaded with large trees overhanging its banks; and, bending for a short space through a verdant plain, it enters again a thick wood, which reaches within 200 yards of the tower, and which the river disjoins from the wood of Alloa, and the extensive pleasure-grounds laid out by the late Earl of Mar: at the W. end of which, at the distance of 2 miles from Clackmannan, is situated the village and tower of Alloa, with the harbour and shipping.

The view towards the N. is bounded, at the distance of 4 miles, by the extensive range of the high Ochil mountains, intersected here and there by deep hollow glens; in one of which, on a kind of promontory, with a deep ravine on every side, stands the ruins of Castle Campbell, famous for being the original seat of the family of Argyll. These mountains are covered with perpetual verdure, and form a secure barrier against the violence of the northern blast. They not only add a high degree of beauty and grandeur to the surrounding scenery; they also suggest to the mind the idea of something more useful and more valuable, from the rich silver mines lately discovered in that part of them, commonly known by the name of the Alva Hills. From the W. to the S. E., the view from
Clackmannan

Clackmannan is terminated by the Campsie Hills, and the high grounds in the neighbourhood of Falkirk and Lir-lithgow. The intermediate country is all rich and diversified: a great part of it also is classick ground. Not far from the extensive Carron iron works, the Tor-wood, famous for the retreat of Sir William Wallace, appears in full view; at a small distance from which is seen the well known field of Bannockburn, the pride of the Scotch warrior.—The bleak and barren track of land, bounded by the Saline hills, to the E. and N. E., interspersed here and there with fresh water lakes, and some very thriving plantations, forms a striking contrast to the whole scene.

The village of Clackmannan itself, however, does by no means correspond with a situation so uncommonly beautiful. Its street is broad and regular enough; but many of the houses are wretched and mean. In the middle of the street, stands the tolbooth and court-house; a heap of ruins! and a nuisance to the publick. Here, however, the sheriff sometimes holds his courts*; the county fiars are annually struck here; and here the members of parliament for the county have been always elected.

* The counties of Clackmannan and Stirling have one sheriff-depute between them; and the most part of the business is transacted by two substitutes, who have only very small salaries allowed for their trouble. Most of the sheriff-substitutes in Scotland are in the same situation. Would it not be an object worthy of the attention of the legislature, to have this useful class of men placed on a more independent footing, by allowing them salaries more adequate to the importance of the trust committed to them? This could be done, either by a small tax on the fees of court, or in any other way that might be least oppressive to the country. The independence of our judges is one of the greatest blessings of the British constitution. Before the heritable jurisdictions were abolished, the proprietors of the estate of Clackmannan were heritable sheriffs of this county.

ed. The village is upon the estate of Clackmannan, and pays feu-duty to the proprietor of that estate. It contains 117 houses, 194 heads of families, and 639 souls; 281 of whom are male, and 358 female. It cannot be said to have any trade: the artificers which live in it are chiefly employed for the use of the surrounding country*.

There is also one other village in the parish, called Newtown Shaw, upon the estate of Lord Cathcart. It is increasing very rapidly; and, from the extensive iron works lately begun by the Devon Company in its immediate neighbourhood, we may naturally expect, that, in a short time, it will be in a very flourishing state. With such a certain prospect of success, however, it is astonishing to see, how little attention is paid to the form and regularity of its buildings.

Climate and Diseases.—The climate is, upon the whole, rather healthy than otherwise. Though, from its vicinity to the surrounding hills, it is exposed to frequent and heavy rains, and the air thereby rendered less salubrious; yet frequent instances of longevity are found among the

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inhabit-

* There are three bakers in the village, and eight grocers, or shop-keepers. It has always had a pretty good inn; but seldom has been without a dozen of tippling-houses: a circumstance not very favourable to the morals of the people. It has two fairs in the year; one in June, and the other in September, called Bartholomew's Fair; where horses, black cattle, coarse linen and woollen cloth, and all kinds of hardware and haberdashery goods are exposed. Formerly, this last was a great market for wool brought from the south country: of late years, however, very small quantities of that article have been brought to it.

There is a tambouring school lately begun in the village, by some Glasgow manufacturers, in which about forty young girls are taught; but it is difficult as yet to say, whether it may have a good or a bad effect. The same company have likewise begun to teach a few boys to weave with the fly shuttle.

inhabitants. In 1791, one person died at the age of 95; at present, there is one man in the parish above 90, another 89, and several others near to that period. The small pox is the most frequent, and most fatal epidemical disorder. The young are subjected to its ravages every two or three years. In some years, it is more fatal than in others. In 1790, almost one half of the children, that were seized with it in the village of Clackmannan, died. This is not to be wondered at: Considering the bad treatment, it is rather astonishing how any escape. As soon as the infection has seized the child, he is put to bed; a large fire is kindled; he is smothered up with blankets, that he may not catch cold; while, to hasten the eruption, a mixture of warm milk and whisky is, from time to time, poured down his throat. Among many of the farmers, however, and better sort of the inhabitants, inoculation is become frequent, and is practised with great success. Only two instances have occurred in the parish, during the last 14 years, of children dying, where this mode has been used; and even these two instances, it is said, were owing to the parents not attending to the directions of the surgeon. Yet, notwithstanding all this, the prejudice against inoculation is deeply rivetted in the minds of the great body of the people. They look upon it as a tempting of Providence; and would consider themselves as guilty of a species of murder, if the event should prove fatal. There have been some instances of children dying by the measles and hooping-cough; but these are not numerous*.

Lakes,

* In 1785, after a very hot summer, and a sudden fall of rain in the month of August, a dysentery made its appearance, and raged with such uncommon violence, that even in the small village of Clackmannan alone, upwards of twenty persons, almost all of them heads of families, fell victims.

Lakes, Rivers, Tides, &c.—The river Forth forms the S. boundary of this parish. It is a mile in breadth, and of a depth sufficient for very large vessels. It has two pows or creeks in the parish; Clackmannan pow on the W. boundary, and that of Kennetpans towards the E., about a mile and a half distant from the other: both of which are in the district of the port of Alloa. The pow of Clackmannan is formed by the mouth of the river Black Devon. The mean depth of water at the usual shipping place, is 10 feet, and 20 feet at the mouth of the harbour. It was formerly crooked, and ran out a considerable way to the W.; but was made straight, and deepened in 1772, by the proprietor, Sir Lawrence Dundas. The pow at Kennetpans, belonging to Mr. Bruce of Kennet, is much smaller than the other, but capable of being greatly enlarged. It has 17 feet of water at spring tides*.

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times to its direful influence. It was more fatal in the village than in the neighbourhood. This, perhaps, may have been owing to the little care that is taken to keep the streets clean. Before every door is a dung-hill, on which every species of nuisance is thrown, without the least regard to decency and cleanliness; so that the infection spreads with rapid progress.

In 1789, a nervous fever, with very ardent symptoms, proved fatal to several stout young men in the lower part of the parish. Since that time, it has appeared in other parts, but with much less violence; though, in some instances, protracted to a great length.

* From many circumstances, it is highly probable, that the river was much broader at this place in former times, than it is at present. A village, called Ferrytown, at the distance of five furlongs from the river, seems to have once stood on its banks. The intervening ground still goes by the name of Saltgrais, and is under the level of high spring tides, which strong sea walls, or banks, prevent from overflowing it. One of these walls seems to have been built at a very early period: too slight and superficial, however, to resist the violence of the tides, which frequently broke it down, and overflowed the land, till at length a reduction

The tides in the river Forth, for several miles, both above and below Clackmannan, exhibit a phenomenon not to be found (it is said) in any other part of the globe. This is what the sailors call a *leaky tide*, which happens always in good weather during the neap tides; and sometimes also during the spring tides, if the weather be uncommonly

tion of the rent became absolutely necessary. By this time, the sediment of the river, which is a blue mud or soft clay, had again accumulated, and formed a considerable track of fine rich land. In order, therefore, to secure the old saltgrafs, as well as to make a new acquisition of 50 acres Mr. Erskine of Mar, the proprietor (who has been so good as to furnish an account of several of these facts), in 1776, began a new bank or wall, much stronger than the former, and finished it in little more than six months. The length of the wall is 1380 yards; the height, 8 feet. It has a slope to the river of $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet for every foot of perpendicular height; and the side next the water was covered with sods, or turf, of one foot in thickness. The side next the land was sown with grafs seeds, and has one foot of a slope for every foot of perpendicular height. There were 35,916 cubical yards of earth moved to form this wall, besides 915 yards for turf; making in whole 36,831 cubical yards, at 5 d. the yard. The whole expence amounted to about 7861. Sterling. This, however, has not only effectually secured the old saltgrafs land; it has also gained 50 acres of new land; which (deducting the repairs the old wall must have received) yielded, during the first seven years of a lease, an interest of 4 per cent. for the money laid out; and the remaining twelve years, an interest of 7 per cent. It will probably amount to 12 per cent. when the present lease expires, as the land is of the richest quality. A great error was committed by the tenant who got the lease of this new land. Instead of allowing it to remain in grafs for some years, it was immediately ploughed, and thereby prevented from consolidating in a proper manner. The consequence was, it remained much longer in a wet state than arable land ought to do.

This error was avoided, when, several years afterwards, another track of land, adjoining to the above, was in the same manner gained from the river, to the estate of Lord Dundas. It was pastured upwards of seven years; and the good effects now appear: it produces the most luxuriant crops. The expence attending this acquisition did not exceed one-third part of the former. Besides, a part of the wall enclosing it is

commonly fine. When the water has flowed for 3 hours, it then runs back for about an hour and a half, nearly as far as when it began to flow ; it returns immediately, and flows during another hour and a half to the same height it was at before : and this change takes place both in the flood and ebb tides. So that there are actually double the number of tides in this river that are to be found any where else. In very boisterous weather, however, these leaky tides are by no means regular ; the water only swells and gorges, without any perceptible current, as if the two tides were acting against each other. The cause of this singular phenomenon in the tides of the river Forth may be a subject of inquiry to the philosopher ; for it has not as yet been discovered.

The river Devon forms the N. boundary of the parish. It takes its rise in the Ochil Hills, and, running 10 miles directly eastward, it makes a turn to the W., at a place called the Crook of Devon. It passes the Rumbling Bridge and Cauldron Lin, where it forms a scenery, wild and beautiful, and romantick beyond all description. It then

so constructed, that a waggon road is formed on the top of it, for the purpose of carrying coals to such vessels as are too large for going up the pow of Clackmannan to the usual shipping place. There is another track of land formed by the river in the same manner as the above, to the E. of the harbour of Kennetpans, belonging to Mr. Bruce of Kennet, and which that gentleman also proposes to embank.

Such undertakings, when properly conducted, are attended with many advantages : They not only add to the extent and value of estates, but they also contribute very much to the safety of the navigation, by contracting the river, and thereby clearing and deepening its channel.

There was formerly a salmon fishing on the river Forth at this place ; but it has been discontinued for fifteen years. Previous to that period, the salmon was commonly sold here at 1d. the pound. There are always a few cruives placed in the river, in which a variety of small fish are now and then caught ; but these seldom turn to much account.

then winds through a deep rich valley, till it falls into the river Forth, 4 miles to the W. of Clackmannan, and a very few miles only from the place where it takes its rise. In time of floods, owing to the high hills through which it passes, it comes down with a dreadful and irresistible rapidity; very frequently sweeping along with it fields of corn, and ricks of hay, and, at times, even bridges, and every thing that is in its way.

“ All that the winds had spar’d

“ In one wild moment ruin’d; the big hopes

“ And well-earn’d treasures of the painful year

“ Roll mingled down.” THOMSON.

In general, however, it is only a small river; large enough, at the same time, to become navigable, if its channel were properly cut. In 1776, a survey and estimate, made by Mr. James Watt engineer, under the direction of the late Lord Cathcart, was given in to the Board of Police in Scotland, for the purpose of improving the internal commerce of this country, by cutting several navigable canals. Among other plans given in by Mr. Watt, that of making the Devon navigable for several miles was one. The estimate of the expence amounted only to about 2000l. pounds Sterling. Had this plan been carried into execution, a track of more than 10,000 acres of coal, at present entirely locked up from the sea sale, would have been exposed to the publick market; besides many other advantages of trade, that must have accrued to the neighbouring country. The extensive iron works now begun by the Devon Company, on the banks of this river, renders it highly probable, that the plan will still be executed; the advantage of water carriage being so much superior to that of land. The Devon abounds in trout,
and

and salmon are sometimes caught in it, which come up from the river Forth, in time of spawning: a practice, however, very destructive to the fishery.

There is another river called Black Devon, which takes its rise in the Saline Hills; and, running W. through the middle of this parish, falls into the Forth at Clackmannan pow. In its course, it supplies with water two corn mills and a lint mill. Two water lades, or aqueducts, are also taken off from it; one of which drives an engine on the Clackmannan coal, and the other supplies a great reservoir which drives the engine on the Alloa coal. This reservoir goes by the name of Gartmorn Dam; but it is in fact a small beautiful lake, of 130 acres in extent, having a little island in the middle of it, and abounds with perch, some pike, and various kinds of trout. Part of it is in the parish of Alloa; but by far the greatest part is in the parish of Clackmannan. There is another small lake in the parish, called Tullygarth Dam, consisting of 45 acres in extent, where a few fish are sometimes to be found. In time of great drought also, the river Black Devon, at one place, forms the appearance of a small lake, by having its water collected together, for the supply of the mills and coal machinery.

Heritors and State of Property.—The principal heritors, according to their valued rent, are, Lord Dundas, Mr. Erskine of Mar, Mr. Bruce of Kennet, Lord Cathcart, Mr. Abercromby of Brucefield *, and Lord Alva, one of the Judges of the Court of Session; besides a considerable number of smaller heritors and feuars. It is a singular circumstance,

* The fee of this estate belongs to Mr. Abercromby's second surviving son, Major-General Sir Robert Abercromby, late Governor of Bombay, and at present Commander in Chief of his Majesty's forces in India.

stance, that the estates, in this parish, of all these gentlemen just mentioned (one only excepted), form but a small part of their landed property. They all possess estates in other parishes; and the consequence is, only two of them have their residence here. The estate of Clackmannan, belonging to Lord Dundas, is strictly entailed, as well as the estate belonging to Mr. Erskine of Mar. The house upon the estate of Clackmannan is almost a ruin, and not fit to be inhabited; the proprietor, however, it is said, intends to take the advantage of so delightful a situation, and to build a house suited to it, near to the site of the old tower. From the seat of the family of Mar being at Alloa, in the immediate neighbourhood, there never was a house upon their estate in this parish. The house upon the estate of Sauchy is placed at the distance of about 60 yards within the parish of Alloa; but the greatest part of the pleasure-grounds, and even part of the garden, are in the parish of Clackmannan. The pleasure-grounds are laid out and beautified with much taste and judgment. A great part of these grounds, when in the possession of Sir John Shaw, once formed a deer park, consisting of 100 acres, and surrounded by a very high wall. The only house in the parish, that deserves the name of elegant, is just now finished by Mr. Bruce of Kennet, from a beautiful design of Mr. Harrison of Lancaster. Placed in one of the finest situations the country affords, it is also built in a style of superior elegance to most of the houses to be met with in Scotland; and exhibits in all its parts an equal attention to convenience and utility, as it does to elegance and taste.

Soil, Acres, Rent, &c.—The parish of Clackmannan consists of 7132 acres; 166 of which are natural wood,
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and 538 new plantations, all in a thriving state, and some of them nearly ready for cutting. There are upwards of 20 acres of moss in the parish, and 70 acres of land from which the moss has been removed, now under pasture and hay. A cold clay soil, with a wet bottom, predominates over a very great part of the parish; some of it so poor indeed as not to be worth the labouring. A few spots however of a light dry soil, and even of a rich black loam, with a fine bottom, are to be found here and there. Part of the land in the neighbourhood of the village is of this quality; and accordingly the rent of it is proportionably high. But the richest and largest track of land lies on the banks of the river Forth, consisting of 1000 acres of excellent carse soil, all very fertile. From this, it will easily appear, that the rent of the land must be very much varied, according to its quality; rising from almost nothing, to 43s. the acre. The real rent of the parish is 4700*l.* Sterling, and is approaching towards 5600*l.*, as the present leases expire. The valued rent is 9155*l.* 17*l.* 4*d.* Scotch; which probably was the real rent at the time of the valuation.

State of Agriculture, &c.—The agriculture of this parish has undergone a very great change during these last 15 years. Many of the farms have been greatly enlarged*, which has enabled the tenant to adopt every new improvement. The success of one has induced others to follow the example: and at this time, almost all the farmers

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* At present, there are about forty farms fewer in the parish than were about twenty years ago. Some of the farmers now possess farms to the extent of 700 acres; besides having what are called led farms, in the adjoining parishes, to a very great extent. From this, it may be the opinion of some persons, that several of the farms in this parish are too large, while others are undoubtedly too small.

in the parish, small as well as great, practise the most improved mode. They have laid aside those restraints, by which deep-rooted prejudice, in favour of use and wont, had so long fettered their forefathers. Instead of the mode formerly followed, of a continued rotation of beans, barley, and oats, on the best lands, that of summer fallow, wheat, beans, barley, grass, and oats, is now universally adopted; while the lands of inferior quality have crops suited to their soil. The soil in general is not favourable for turnips; yet where it is favourable, these have been sown, and with success. The most part of the wet lands have been drained, and the ridges made streight*, and thrown into a proper size. Two horse ploughs, of Small's construction, are used over all the parish.

But the most material circumstance, in favour of the agriculture of this parish, is a spirit of emulation that was, with much propriety, raised amongst the ploughmen themselves. About 10 years ago, a number of gentlemen in this neighbourhood formed themselves into a society, under the name of the Clackmannanshire Farmer Club, for promoting the purposes of agriculture. One of their first steps was to institute ploughing matches among the servants, in which honours and rewards were bestowed upon the best workmen. From 40 to 50 candidates have often started upon these occasions†. The first prize has been always a silver medal‡; and three or four smaller pecuni-

ary

* The carse lands excepted: The ridges there are, in general, crooked; and, when made streight, take a long time (say the farmers, though with very little justice), to be formed into a proper soil.

† In 1790, the minister of Clackmannan had his glebe and farm ploughed in one day by forty-nine two horse ploughs: The greatest number ever known to start at once in this country.

‡ Alexander Vertue, at that time a servant to a farmer in the parish

rewards are given to the next best, according to their merit. Nothing of this kind had been hitherto known in Scotland; but the example has been followed in many parts of the country, and with much success.

Beans are sown here as soon in the month of February as the weather permits; oats immediately after, and barley from the 20th of April to the 20th of May: wheat is sown from the 15th of September to the end of October, and sometimes during the two following months; though it seldom turns out well after the middle of November. Harvest commences about the middle of August, and sometimes continues to the end of October. The average produce on the best lands, when the mode above mentioned is followed, may be computed at 10 bolls of wheat from the acre, 7 of beans, 7 of barley, and 8 of oats *, and 300 stone of hay, Dutch weight. There have been instances, however, of much greater increase, particularly of wheat and oats, even to the extent of 15 bolls the

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acre

of Clackmannan, gained the first prize at the first of these ploughing matches. In summer 1793, he was sent for to his Majesty's farm at Windsor, where it was expected he was to continue. He carried a plough with him from Scotland, and began his work in presence of his Majesty, and a number of noblemen and gentlemen. It was acknowledged, that land so well ploughed had never before been seen in that country. Next morning, however, instead of going to his work, as he was desired the preceding evening, he was told, "Not to go near the King's farm at Windsor, on any account whatever, nor to have the smallest intercourse with any of his Majesty's farm servants." After receiving a reward for his trouble, he left his plough, by special desire, and returned to Scotland. It is difficult to conceive, how, in this instance, the jealousy of the English ploughmen prevented the salutary effects intended by this instructor.

* Stirlingshire firlet is used here for oats and barley; Linlithgow for wheat; and a firlet for beans and pease, about a peck in the boll larger than the Linlithgow wheat firlet.

acre. But these are very rare : for when at any time the crop is uncommonly luxuriant, it is generally lodged by the heavy rains, which are frequent here in the month of August, and thereby rendered of little value. The average produce of the whole of crop 1792, even from the best lands, did not exceed 4 bolls the acre. The consequence was, that hardly any of the tenants were able to pay, from this crop, above a third part of their rent ; while some had not as much as defrayed the expences of seed and labour. In this state of real distress to the small tenants, some of the proprietors, with much humanity, made a reduction of the rent, for that year, to some of their tenants, and lengthened out the term of payment to others *.

Price

* The farmers here have some advantages, and some disadvantages, which perhaps are not peculiar to them. Thirlage is fortunately abolished over the greatest part of the parish ; but where it is not, it is still a cause of much complaint, and of real loss to the farmer. It is, indeed, a curse of an unknown magnitude ; and it is astonishing how proprietors of land, who have it in their power, do not see their own interest in putting an end to it altogether. Where it does exist, nearly a tenth boll is paid for grinding the corn. Yet, notwithstanding this, there is not a farmer who would not willingly make a reasonable allowance for the mill rent. What loss then can proprietors sustain ? Let them think for a moment ; let them consider the hardships to which they expose the very persons, whom it is their interest as well as duty to encourage and protect. A small farmer (we shall suppose), who pays the highest demand for his little spot (and must pay it), toils and labours, with unremitting attention, to make it produce what is sufficient to support his family, and to answer the term day of his landlord. He is surely entitled to bring the produce of his labour to the best market. Instead of this, however, he dare not sell one boll of oats, without being subjected to a penalty. He must take them all to the mill, and intrust them, for days and nights, to the care of persons, in whom he very often can place no confidence : while at the same time, he exposes them to be destroyed by the numerous swarms of vermin which usually frequent these places. His family suffers :
his

Price of Labour.—The best men servants get 8l. Sterling yearly, 6½ bolls of oat meal, and 1l. 6s. Sterling, for what is called *kitchen-money*, besides a house and yard, if they are married: women servants get 3l. yearly: day labourers get 1s. a-day, and 1s. 2d. in harvest: women reapers get 1s. in harvest, and a glass of whisky in the morning; a very bad practice, and which frequently leads them on to habits of drinking whisky during all their lives. Masons get 1s. 8d. a-day, and wrights 1s. 6d.

Collieries.—There are 3 collieries in the parish, Clackmannan, Sauchy, and Kennet. Clackmannan coal consists of 4 seams, known by the names of main coal, 9 feet thick; cherry coal, 2 feet 10 inches; splint coal, 2 feet 8 inches; and coal Mozey, 2 feet 3 inches. The main coal was wrought in the last century, and terminated about

his landlord must also suffer. This is a real grievance, and ought to be redressed. There is a mill in this parish, which goes by the name of the *Thieves Mill*.

The invention of threshing mills will, in all probability, soon prove useful to agriculture. The first of these was erected at Kilbagie, in this parish, by Mr. George Meikle engineer. It is driven by water, and threshes eight or ten bolls in an hour. It is undoubtedly one of the greatest improvements in husbandry, and promises to be of general utility. Threshing mills are now used in many parts, both of Scotland and England; and commissions for them, it is said, have arrived from some of the northern kingdoms of Europe. They are now made of various sizes; so that farmers in this place, who possess no more than thirty acres of land, find it their interest to use them. There are already nine of them in this parish; two of which are driven by water; and some of them by two, and some by four horses, according to their size. Their price is from 25l. to 60l. Sterling.

The great advantage to be derived from threshing mills is, that, besides threshing much cleaner than by the usual mode, they give the farmer a command of the market, to which he can bring, upon any emergency, a great part of his crop, at the shortest notice.

bout the year 1763. The cherry and splint seams began to be wrought about 30 years ago, and are working at the present time. The coal Mozey seam is also working at present: it was begun in 1792; previous to that period, it could not be wrought to any advantage. In this coal work, the method called the *long way*, is now introduced; that is, no part of the coal is left for pillars, but the whole taken out, which saves a great part of the coal. In some of the pits, the coal is brought to the top by women and boys; and in others, by means of machinery. The coal is kept dry by means of an engine driven by water; which is much less expensive than a fire engine. The price of coal varies according to the demand. In general, the price of great coal upon the hill is 5s. the ton; of chows, 4s. About 7000 tons are annually exported to Leith, Dunbar, Perth, Dundee, Montrose, and other places. These are taken to the harbour in waggons of a ton and a half: the mean distance from the pits being about three quarters of a mile*.

The working of the Sauchy coal is of a very old date. It is kept dry by a very powerful fire engine. It consists of 4 seams: the first, or uppermost, is 3 feet thick; the second is 5 feet; but this one has no roof, so that it has never been wrought: the third is 5 feet, and is an excellent coal; the fourth is 9 feet: This last, however, is 16 fathoms below the bottom of the present engine pit, which is 47 fathoms deep. Previous to this period, a great part of the Sauchy coal has been exported; but as it is now in the possession of the Devon Company, it is highly probable,

* A collier, with his wife and daughter, earns 12s. in five days, which is all the time he works in the week. Besides this, he has his meal from the proprietor at 5½d. the peck; a free house and yard, and other bounties, to the amount of 30s. yearly.

able, that the most of it will be used for their iron work.

The Kennet coal consists of two seams; one of 30 inches thick; and another of 36. It was given up in 1726, and began again to be wrought in 1759. It has at present a small fire engine; but it is probable, it was once level free, as there is no trace remaining of any engine being upon it when it was first wrought. The distilleries in the parish consume a great part of this coal. It produces yearly about 6000 tons of great coal, besides a considerable quantity of chows. After the year 1788, when the distilleries were stopped, about 2000 tons were yearly shipped for Leith. It has also a very extensive land sale*.

Distilleries.—The two great distilleries of Kilbagie and Kennetpans are both in the parish of Clackmannan; and, previous to the year 1788, the manufacture of Scotch spirits was carried on at them to an extent hitherto unknown in this part of the island of Great Britain. The distillery laws have undergone various changes in Scotland. Before the year 1784, the duty was levied by a presumptive charge upon the wash (that is, fermented worts), taking it for granted, that the wash would produce one-fourth part in low wines, and that these low wines would produce three-fifth parts in spirits: hence, 100 gallons of wash

was

* During Cromwell's usurpation, when the English ports were shut up by the Dutch, one of the above coal works was let to a Mr. Marjoribanks, a merchant in Edinburgh, at the yearly sum of 1666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* Sterling.

Formerly there were salt pans in this parish, both at Kennetpans and at Clackmannan pow, owing perhaps to the coal being so readily procured; but these have been discontinued for a number of years. The water at this place, indeed, does not appear to be salt enough for that purpose.

was supposed to yield 15 gallons of spirits, and duty was charged accordingly; but instead of 15, 20 gallons of spirits were often drawn from the 100 of wash. In Scotland, the surplus above 15 gallons was uniformly seized, as spirits presumed to be fraudulently obtained; while in England the distiller was allowed the full exercise of his genius, and got permits for the removal of his actual produce. At this period, the quantum of duty on a gallon of spirits was more than double of what it has ever been since. But the high rate of duty afforded such temptation to smuggling, that the consumption of spirits in Scotland was chiefly supplied by the manufacture of illegal stills, and by smuggling from abroad. Great distillers could not smuggle; and being continually subjected to the surveys of the excise, the two distilleries of Kilbagie and Kenpetrans depended entirely on the London market for the sale of their produce; where, previous to the year 1784, they carried on an advantageous trade: though the duty on a gallon of spirits in England was $13\frac{1}{2}$ pence higher than in Scotland; and though they had, at shipping their spirits for England, to pay down this difference on every gallon shipped. In 1784, a law was passed, rendering the duties, and mode of levying them, the same both in Scotland as in England; and at the same time reducing the rate of duty each gallon about one half of what it had been formerly; while it allowed the manufacturer a credit for 20 gallons of spirits from the 100 gallons of wash, and granted permits accordingly. The London distillers expected, that by this equalization plan, the Scotch could not continue their trade to London, and pay the duties in the same manner with themselves. But in this they were mistaken; for the trade increased. And it is the opinion of the best informed distillers, that the London distillers are not a match

match for the Scotch under an equal law. This mode was continued till July 1786, when the license act took place, imposing 30s. a gallon yearly on the contents of every still used for distillation in Scotland; continuing the last plan with respect to England (where the duty amounted to 2s. 6d. for the gallon of spirits), and imposing an additional duty of 2s. on the gallon of spirits sent from Scotland to England: which additional duty was to be paid in London, on the arrival of the spirits in the river Thames.

This act was passed as an experiment, and was to continue for two years. Under it, the London distillers expected, that the Scotch could not continue the trade to London. This trade, however, still continued to increase; which increased also the astonishment of the London traders, who gave in a representation to the Treasury upon the subject. In consequence of which, and upwards of six months previous to the natural expiration of the law, another law was passed, imposing a duty of 6d. a gallon on all Scotch spirits sent to England, in addition to the former 2s.; while the duty on spirits manufactured in England was allowed to remain at the 2s. 6d. When this act was passed, the Scotch distilleries stopped payment. The law continued in this way till July 1788, when the license duty in Scotland was doubled, and made 3l. a gallon, on the contents of the still; and at the same time laying the trader under such restrictions, when he worked for England, as to amount to a prohibition against his entering that market. And in July 1793, the license has been raised to 9l. Sterling a gallon yearly. Previous to the year 1788, the quantity of corn used annually at the distillery of Kilbagie alone, amounted to above 60,000 bolls, and the annual quantity of spirits made, to above 3000 tons. The black cattle fed annually were about 7000; swine 2000.

The cattle were sold to butchers, who drove them to the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets: the swine were killed and cured into bacon and pork for England. The work people employed were nearly 300. The distillery and utensils cost upwards of 40,000*l.* Sterling; and when sold by the trustee for the creditors of the former proprietor, yielded about 7000*l.* Sterling.

No situation could have been more eligible for a distillery than Kilbagie; and it was erected in the most substantial manner. The buildings occupy a space of above 4 acres of ground; all surrounded by a high wall. The barns for malting are of a prodigious size, and are 4 stories in height. A small rivulet runs through the middle of the works, and drives a threshing mill, and all the grinding mills necessary for the distillery; besides supplying with water a canal, which communicates with the river Forth, of about a mile in length, cut for the purpose of conveying both the imports and exports of the distillery.

The distillery at Kennetpans, which is advantageously situated on the very banks of the river Forth, was in proportion to that of Kilbagie, as three to five. And before these two distilleries were stopped, they paid to government an excise duty considerably greater than the whole land tax of Scotland. At present, the duty paid by both is about 8000*l.* Sterling yearly. There is an engine, of Bolton and Watt's construction, at the distillery of Kennetpans; being the first of the kind that was erected in Scotland.

Iron Works.—The extensive and valuable seams of coal and lime-stone on the estate of Sauchy, belonging to Lord Cathcart, induced some gentlemen, under the firm of De,

von Company, to establish iron works of considerable extent. These consist at present of two blast furnaces, and are situated on the banks of the river Devon, near to the old tower of Sauchy. The situation, and singular construction of the Devon iron works, begun in July 1792, merit the attention of the curious in mechanicks and architecture. A steep bank rises more than 50 feet above the level of the river, and is composed of a mock, or very thick stratum of free-stone, very dry and uniform in its texture, and almost free from cracks and fissures. Instead of the usual method of building with stone and lime, the several parts of the works have been formed in this bank, by excavations made in the rock. Two furnaces, which are each above 40 feet high, and 14 feet diameter, and also the spacious arches which give access to the workmen, at the bottom of the furnace, to draw off the liquid metal and slag, are cut out of the rock. The roof which covers the casting house, a room 70 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 23 feet high, is supported by the sides of the quarry, and the solid pillars of the rock that were left for this purpose in making the excavation. In like manner, is formed the engine house, and its apparatus, which is intended to supply the two furnaces with wind, by throwing at each vibration of the engine a sufficient quantity of air, out of a large cylinder, into a long gallery or close mine, formed in the rock. This magazine of wind will contain above 10,000 cubic feet of air, much condensed by the power of the engine, as the gallery is very closely shut up, and made air-tight; having only two apertures, one to receive the supply of air from the air pump, and the other to admit a pipe that conducts the condensed air to blow the two furnaces.

The

The Devon iron works are within 3 English miles of the port and harbour of Alloa, where the produce and manufactures of these works are intended to be shipped; and from which, by a retour carriage, the proprietors can easily bring any supplies of iron-stone, iron-ores, lime-stone, timber, or any other materials that may be necessary *.

POPULATION TABLE FOR 1791.

Number of souls †,	2528	From 10 to 20,	484
Males, -	1205	From 20 to 50,	1000
Females,	1323	From 50 to 70,	360
Souls under 10,	633	From 70 to 100,	51
			Heads

* This undertaking must already have cost a large sum of money, although as yet only in its infant state: but the advantages that must result from it to every class of people, and to the landholders of this county in particular, give great cause to wish for its extension and prosperity. The situation has many peculiar advantages. The whole country around it abounds in coal, as well as in strata of iron-stone; and a vein of rich Kidney iron ore, 18 inches thick, has been found in one of the neighbouring hills. There is also a very fine lime-stone rock, within a few miles of it, lately discovered in the Menstry hills, belonging to Major General Abercromby of Tollibody. So that when we add to all these advantages, the practicability of cutting a navigable canal to join the river Forth, we may reasonably expect that this undertaking will prove successful.

† In the year 1755, the number of souls in the parish of Clackmannan was, according to Dr. Webster's report, 1913; so that there is an increase since that period of 615. This may easily be accounted for, from the number of people who, for many years, crowded to this place, in order to be employed at the distilleries. It is probable, that the number of colliers has also increased; of these, there are in the present list 605 souls. Previous to the year 1788, the numbers in the parish were much greater than in 1791; for when the distilleries gave over working, a
great

Heads of families,	681	Weavers,	-	23
Of whom are		Butchers,	-	7
Married,	- 460	Millers,	-	2
Bachelors,	- 39	Day labourers,		114
Widowers,	- 33	Glazier,	-	1
Widows,	- 100	Distillers,	-	2
Established Church,	391	Ale and whisky fellers,		23
Antiburghers,	51	Carters,	-	10
Burghers,	- 59	Gardeners,	-	12
Relief,	- 180	Coopers,	-	2
Houses,	- 511	Cadgers,	-	2
Men servants in their own		Coal grieves,	-	3
houses,	- 49	Miners,	-	6
Ditto in families,	121	Sailors,	-	7
Women servants,	79	Tide waiter,	-	1
Farmers,	- 51	Grocers or shopkeepers,		12
Colliers, who are heads of		Horses,	-	412
families,	- 116	Black cattle,	-	394
Bakers,	- 4	Ploughs,	-	100
Tailors,	- 11	Carts,	-	192
Shoemakers,	- 12	Four wheeled carriages, viz.		
Wrights,	- 23	A coach and two chaises,		3
Masons,	- 10	Pigeon houses,		6
Smiths,	- 15			

TABLE

great many families left the parish. These are now (1794) returning, and many more may be expected; both on account of the distilleries, which are again reviving, and the Devon iron work. So that in a few years, it is highly probable, that the population of this parish will be much greater than it is at present.

TABLE of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and BURIALS for 21 years.

Years.	Proclama- tions.	Marriages in the parish.	Inter-marriages with other parishes *.	Births.	Burials.
1773,	16	12	4	67	33
1774,	10	8	2	69	57
1775,	20	16	4	60	45
1776,	21	16	5	81	47
1777,	24	17	7	68	81
1778,	29	17	12	94	40
1779,	23	15	8	77	26
1780,	35	25	10	90	81
1781,	27	21	6	92	64
1782,	33	19	14	78	62
1783,	21	15	6	90	90
1784,	28	21	7	86	55
1785,	29	22	7	94	66
1786,	43	34	9	76	54
1787,	47	39	8	81	89
1788,	34	29	5	82	39
1789,	26	17	9	77	31
1790,	25	22	3	69	76
1791,	20	20	—	73	82
1792,	27	18	9	73	53
1793,	19	13	6	65	65
<hr/>					
Total,	557	416	141	1642	1236
<hr/>					
Average, 27		20	7	78	59

Paor.—The funds for the support of the poor arise from the interest of 250*l.* Sterling, from the weekly collections at the church door, from fines on account of misdemeanours,

* Where the women only have left the parish.

demeanours, and from a general voluntary subscription by the heritors, whether resident or non-resident, and all the inhabitants in the parish. The heritors and kirk-session, about 20 years ago, formed themselves into a committee, which meets monthly, for the management of these funds. Into this committee are chosen, from time to time, such of the other inhabitants of the parish as are best acquainted with the state of the poor in their immediate neighbourhood *.

Subjoined is a table, showing the number of monthly pensioners in the parish of Clackmannan for 17 years prior to 1794, together with an exact account of the money received for the maintenance of the poor. But besides the regular pensioners, needy persons, from time to time, receive extraordinary supplies. These are not marked in the following table; but the surplus will show the sum allotted to them.

TABLE

* A clerk and treasurer receives a proper allowance yearly out of the funds for keeping the books, and paying the money to the poor. These receive charity in proportion to their wants; in general, from 2s. to 6s. monthly, according as they are able to work less or more. If, at any time, they are in distress, without having any person to attend them, a keeper is appointed to this office, and is paid out of the funds. None of the poor are allowed to beg; which seems to be a severe restraint upon some of the idle ones.

Before they are admitted upon the monthly roll, they are also obliged to give to the treasurer an inventory of their effects, which, at their death, are disposed of for the benefit of the fund, provided they have no children in need of them.

TABLE.

Years.	Number of Pensioners.			Yearly Income.		
1777,	—	13	—	L. 100	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1778,	—	40	—	89	7	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1779,	—	43	—	102	14	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
1780,	—	42	—	113	16	6
1781,	—	44	—	137	18	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1782,	—	48	—	108	10	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
1783,	—	57	—	118	11	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
1784,	—	57	—	140	11	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
1785,	—	51	—	166	14	2
1786,	—	43	—	143	5	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
1787,	—	46	—	155	7	5
1788,	—	42	—	178	18	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
1789,	—	43	—	118	18	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1790,	—	42	—	110	16	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
1791,	—	43	—	109	1	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
1792,	—	38	—	126	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
1793,	—	41	—	134	7	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total,		733		L. 2155	3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Average,		43		L. 126	15	0

School.—The parish schoolmaster's salary is 200 merks. About 2 years ago, the heritors voluntarily agreed to double this sum during the life of the present incumbent: so that this doubled salary, together with the other emoluments, make his income about 40l. Sterling a-year, exclusive of the school wages and a good house and garden. Besides the parochial school, there are 5 other schools established in different parts of the parish, which are remote from the village of Clackmannan *. Each of the

3 col-

* Michael Bruce taught one of these schools—Michael Bruce, the ingenious poet of Kinrosshire, whose premature death is so pathetically,

3 collieries has one of these. Sometimes, indeed, there are even schoolmasters, paid by subscription, according to the distance which such inhabitants are from the parish school, who are able to bear this expense. At present, one of these subscription schoolmasters receives upwards of 50l. a-year; so that the whole yearly income of the different schoolmasters in this parish must amount to more than 170l. Sterling;

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Church,

and so justly lamented, by the elegant Author of the Mirror (No. 36). A very short time before his death, he taught the small school of Forrest Mill, worth only about 14l. Sterling a-year; and it was the highest preferment to which he attained. Yet, in this obscure retreat, in the bleakest corner of the parish, living in a wretched hovel, and struggling under all the hardships of poverty, he wrote LOCHLEVEN, one of the finest descriptive poems in the English language.

The following are extracts taken from his holograph letters still extant, and in the possession of the Reverend Dr. Baird, Principal of the University of Edinburgh; and they put this fact beyond a doubt.

————— “ I have wrote a few lines of a descriptive poem, *Cui titulus est Lochleven*. You may remember you hinted such a thing to me; so I have set about it, and you may expect a dedication. I hope it will soon be finished, as I, every week, add two lines, blot out six, and alter eight. You shall hear the plan when I know it myself. Farewell. I am, your's, &c. MICHAEL BRUCE.”

Forrest Mill, July 28. 1766.

To Mr. David Arnot of Portmoag.

And, in another letter to the same person, he gives an account of a visit to the Island of Lochleven, and exclaims bitterly against the men who conveyed him thither, for not allowing him more time to examine its antiquities.—“ They,” says he, “ who consider it in no other view than as capable of feeding a dozen or fourteen cattle, when their work was over, would not stay a minute longer, had it been to discover the great toe of St. Moag, who is buried there. My description of it, in the poem Lochleven (which, by the bye, is now finished) runs thus ————— I am, &c. MICHAEL BRUCE.”

Forrest Mill, December 1. 1766.

A second edition of Michael Bruce's Poems is now in the press.

Church, &c.—The church is an old mean structure, in the form of a cross, evidently built at different periods, and now in a very ruinous state. The manse was built about the year 1740. It is beautifully situated on the S. side of the ridge on which the village stands, and commands a most delightful view of the whole country along the banks of the river Forth. Lord Dundas is patron.—The stipend consists of 24 bolls of barley, 24 bolls of meal, 16 bolls of oats, and 50*l.* Sterling in money, exclusive of 40*l.* Scotch for communion elements, and 20*l.* Scotch for grass mail; with a glebe of about 4 acres of good land, and what is called *craig leave* coal, that is, free coal, except paying the collier, which is about one-third part of the value*.

The records of the kirk-session commence in the year 1593, and are almost entire from that period.

Though there are a variety of sectaries in the parish, only one of them (the Relief) has a meeting-house in it; the rest go to meeting-houses in the adjoining parishes.

Antiquities.—Clackmannan has, for many generations, been the seat of the chief of the Bruces in Scotland. It is not certain, however, at what precise period John de Bruce, third son of Robert, one of the Earls of Annandale, became proprietor of it. King David II. gave it to his kinsman, Robert Bruce, the first laird of Clackmannan. (*Dilecto consanguineo*, saith the charter, dated at Perth the 9th of December, 1329, a. regni 39), which must have been a very short time only before his death. It is probable, indeed,

* Since this account was written, the Court of Session (of this date, November 19. 1794.) have granted an augmentation of four chalders of victual, one half in meal, and the other in barley; besides an addition of 5*l.* Sterling to the communion element money.

deed, that King David resided at Clackmannan, at least, during the first part of his reign; since we find, that, in the year 1330, his chamberlain, Reginald More, settled his publick accounts there*.

The old tower, which still remains, is said to have been built by King Robert Bruce. From the style of the building, indeed (for there is no date upon it), it appears to have been erected about his time; and, from several names of places, we may conclude, that it actually was the residence of some of the kings; as the following names seem to indicate; *King's Seat Hill*, *King's Meadow Park*, and others of a similar nature, in the vicinity of the tower. The greatest height of this tower is 79 feet. It contains a variety of apartments, and has been surrounded by a moat, with a draw-bridge, part of which still remains. Adjoining the tower, stands the old mansion, the residence of the family, till the direct line became extinct. Both the tower and house, however, are fast crumbling into ruins, and exhibit a sad spectacle of human grandeur. Though said to have been once the abode of kings, and, for many ages, the chief residence of one of the most ancient families in the kingdom, yet they now afford only a very comfortable dwelling to a common ploughman.

Henry Bruce, Esq., the last laird of Clackmannan, died in 1772; and in him ended the direct line of that ancient family. His widow, Katharine Bruce, survived him till November 1791, when she died, by means of an accidental fall, at the great age of 95†. She had in her possession

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* See "Accounts of the Chamberlain of Scotland, in the years 1329, 1330, and 1331, from the originals in the Exchequer," published by Mr. John Davidson in 1771.

† The memory of this lady will ever be revered by all who knew her.
She

an immensely large sword, with a helmet, said to have been used by King Robert Bruce at the battle of Bannockburn; both of which she bequeathed as a legacy to the present Earl of Elgin. The direct male line of the family of Bruce of Clackmannan being extinct, a dispute is now keenly agitated by two claimants for the chiefship, the Earl of Elgin and Alexander Bruce, Esq. of Kennet; but unless some farther evidence be adduced, than what has yet appeared, it is not probable, that it will soon be terminated in favour of either of the parties. It is astonishing, therefore, how Mr. Astle, in his late publication, "On the Seals of the Kings of Scotland," &c. should, without hesitation, and without showing any good evidence, have assigned the chiefship to the Earl of Elgin.

A tree of the family of the Bruces, from their first arrival in Britain, is in the possession of that nobleman, left to him as a legacy by the late lady of Clackmannan; a copy of which also is in the possession of Lord Dundas. It is dated 1686; but upon what grounds its authenticity depends, it has not as yet been shown. This, however, must be judged of, in a great measure, according as the facts related in it agree or disagree with the general tenor of history. If this tree shall be pronounced authentic,

She was one of those rare characters, which at times appear on earth as the ornaments of their nature. To all the high sentiments of a dignified and enlightened mind, she added those amiable virtues, of the heart, which render their influence irresistible. As long as she lived, therefore, the Tower of Clackmannan was frequented by her numerous friends and acquaintances, of various ranks, and of all ages; for her extreme weight of years had not made the least impression upon that happy vivacity and cheerfulness of temper, which had always made her company so much the admiration and the delight of her friends. She was formed to support to the last, with undiminished dignity, the character of the race from which she was sprung.

tick, it evidently makes Mr. Bruce of Kennet the chief of the Bruces; since, according to it, he is descended from Sir Robert Bruce, the eighth laird of Clackmannan, being three generations later than the Earl of Elgin, who is descended from Sir David Bruce, the fifth laird of Clackmannan, according to this tree. On the margin of the tree is a narrative, giving an account of the family of the Bruces*.

Mr. Bruce of Kennet has also a claim to the attainted title of Lord Burleigh. His grandmother, by the father's side, was Mary Balfour, the youngest daughter of the fourth Lord Burleigh; whose only son Robert killed a man in 1707, and was condemned to die, but escaped from prison
previous

* Copy of the Narrative on the Margin of the Family Tree of the
BRUCES OF CLACKMANNAN.

READER,

Since we are to speak of the genealogie of that heroick Prince King Robert Bruce, take notice, in the first place, that this surname (whichev corruptly pronounced for Le Preux (the valiant), as in the old records it is oftentimes written Le Breuse, or a Topically surname De Bruis, from a town and castle of that name in the Grisons country, hath originally from France; where, about the year 1145, lived Peter Brucie, famous for writing against the Romish errors of transubstantiation, whose followers, by the Popish writers, are stiled Petro Brusiani. About the year 1050, divers noblemen of Normandy, coming over with Q. Emma, settled themselves in England; after her death (being hated of the English) were forced to retire for Scotland, which was then nearly allied to the Duke of Normandy, by reason that King Kenneth the III. and King Malcolm the II. married two daughters of that house amongst the rest.

I. Adelme le Bruis, Preos or Breos (for so diversly is he named), obtained in Scotland the lands of Bouilden. This Adelme joined, in the year 1066, with William the Bastard, Duke of Normandy, in the conquest of England; and, for his valiant service, was highly rewarded with great lands there, namely, the castle and barony of Skelton, and lordship of Cleveland, the lands of Hert, Hertnesse, Hertlepool, Danby, Levington, Yarum, Guisburgh, Shorp, Sibthrop, Carleton, Westly Broston,
and

previous to the day of his execution. He was concealed for some years, and after his father's death, joined in the Rebellion in 1715; in consequence of which, the title was attainted.—The question, therefore, is, whether this Robert was to be considered as dead in law, upon his being condemned (which was before his father died), so that no after deed of his could affect the title as to the next heir? If this be the case, as the title is said to be to heirs whatsoever, Mr. Bruce of Kennet must have a just claim to the title of Burleigh, by virtue of his grandmother's right, as the other sister was never married,

There

and Uplythan. He had two sons, 1. Robert, his successor; 2. William, prior of Guisburgh. He carried, in his coat of arms A, a lyon rampant P: He had a younger brother, named William le Broos, Lord of Bromar, in Suffex.

II. Robert Bruce, elder son to Adelme, assisted Edgar (son to E. Malcom Crammore) in recovery of the Crown of Scotland, usurped by Duncan, his bastard brother, and Donald Bane his uncle; he married Agnes Annand, heir of the Lordship of Annandale, who bare him two sons; 1st. Adam, Lord of Skelton; 2d. Robert, Lord of Annandale. He founded the priory of Guisburgh, anno 1120, and endowed it richly with lands and tythes. He assisted St. David, then Earle of Huntingtune, in founding the abbey of Selkirk, which afterwards, when he came to the Crown, transported to Kelso. This Lord Robert, as witness in the charter of mortification, has contributed his lands of Boulden for increasing the patrimony thereof. He died anno 1141, and was buried in the monastery of Guisburgh: so that they are mistaken who account this Robert to be the man who assisted William the Conqueror anno 1068, being some 75 years before his death. His brother William, prior of Guisburgh, died A. D; 1155.

III. Robert, second of that name, was second Lord of Annandale, in right of his mother, and Lord of Cleaveland, Hert, Hertness, and Hertpool, by his father's gift. He conformed to the customs of those times, appointing his father's bearing, assumed the coat of Annandale G, a chief and falcie G, and having no sons by his first wife Alisa, or Avisa, he gave sundry mortifications to the canons of Guisburgh; he gave also many
lands

There is another old tower situated on the banks of the Devon, belonging to Lord Cathcart. It has been for many years in the possession of his family, and is still more entire than the tower of Clackmannan. There was also one

lands in marriage with his daughters, whose posterity carry his arms, with alterations, namely, Johnston, Kilpatrick, Moffat, Tweedy, Tait, Little, Corry, Hert, Greir, Jardin, Boys. By his second wife, Juditha, daughter to William of Lancaster, Lord of Kendell, he had,

IV. William, third Lord of Annandale and Cleveland, a valiant religious nobleman, who lived in the days of K. Alexander II. in the 19th year of his reign. He is witness in a charter granted by him to Abbey of Kelso; he confirmed his predecessor's donation to the monastery of Kelso and Guisburgh, adding moreover a new gift of certain lands in Hertlepool to the canons of Guisburgh. He married Isabel, daughter to William the Lyon, begotten upon the daughter de Avenell.

V. Robert his son, third of that name, and fourth Lord Annandale and Cleveland, married Isabella, daughter to Gilbert of Clare, Earl of Clare, Gloucester, and Hertfoord; had three sons, 1. Robert, his successor; 2. John, of whom many of the surname of Bruce in Scotland are descended; 3. Sir Bernard, of Conington, in England.

VI. Robert, fourth of that name, and fifth Lord of Annandale, married Isabella, second daughter to Prince David Earl of Huntington and Chester, and got with her the lordship of Garioch. He was, for his exceeding valour, surnamed the Noble. In the year 1264, he, with John Baliol, Lord of Galloway, was sent with an army to the assistance of K. Henry the III. of England against the Barons.

VII. Robert, his son, fifth of that name, Lord of Annandale and Garioch, married Martha Countess of Carrick.

The clandestine marriage, spoken of by our historians, was not betwixt her and the Lord Robert Bruce, but with Thomas Mackintagart, her first husband; who (being Earl of Carrick in her right), in the year 1270, was sent with other noblemen to the wars of the Holy Land with 1000 soldiers; and, dying there without issue, left his lady a widow, whose marriage the King procured to his cousin Lord Robert Bruce, whereby he became Earl of Carrick. She bare many children to him; 1. Robert, sixth of that name, thereafter King of Scotland; 2. Edward Earl of Carrick and King of Ireland; 3. Sir Neil Bruce, taken in Kil-

dramic

one of the same kind at a place called Hart-shaw, which belonged originally to the Stewarts of Rosyth; from which family Oliver Cromwell, by the female line, is said to have been descended. It was probably the hunting seat of that family, as the name denotes. Very few vestiges, however,

drimmie; 4. and 5. Thomas and Alexander, taken in Galloway: These three were basely murdered by King Edward Long Shanks. His first daughter Christian was married first to Sir Andrew Murray, Lord Bothwell. After his death (he being killed at Stirling 1297), she was married to Donald Earl of Mar. Second daughter Eufeme, married to Sir Thomas Randolph, sheriff of Roxburgh, and great Chamberlain of Scotland. Third, Marjory, married Sir Neill Campell of Loch. The fourth married to Sir Christopher Seaton of Seaton. This Robert is he who contended with Baliol for the crown, and being perfidiously used by King Edward Long Shanks (who made use of his power and friends to conquer Scotland, under pretence of maintaining his title), at length perceiving the treachery, and labouring in vain to get his son, the Lord Robert Bruce, in his own power, whom King Edward caused to be kept in Caillie as a pledge to bind his father to his service, and so to withdraw himself into Scotland, broken with grief and indignation. As he returned from Hert to Annandale, he deceased in the way, about Pasche 1304, and was buried in the monastery of Holm Coultran. Observe, here the reader is admonished of some mistakes of writers of history; some placing another Robert betwixt this Earl of Carrick and Robert the Noble, who married one of the heirs of Huntingtoun; some asserting that Robert the Noble himself was Baliol's competitor; some writing that Robert Earl of Carrick, who contended with Baliol, was the same which afterwards so happily came to the crown; whereas indeed Robert the Noble was father to the Earl of Carrick, and dyed before Alexander the III. King Robert also was but a child of ten or twelve years in the time of contention, his father being still alive, who (as said is) dyed anno 1304.

VIII. King Robert Bruce married, first Isabell, daughter to Gramey Earl of Mar, by whom he had one daughter Mariorie, whose bare to her husband, the Lord Walter Stewart of Renfrew, Robert King of Scotland; and secondly, he married Isabell de Bourk, daughter to Hayme Earl of Ulster in Ireland, who was mother to King David and to Mur-

however, of this tower, except the coat of arms, are now remaining. The proprietor, it seems, in the beginning of

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this

garet Countess of Sutherland. King David had no issue, whereby the crown fell to the house of Stewart.

IX. Edward Earl of Carrick and King of Ireland (younger brother to King Robert), married Isabell, daughter of John Earl of Athol, sister daughter to the Lord Cumine Stair at Dumfries. She bare to him three sons, successively one after another Earls of Carrick; Robert, killed at Duplin; 2. Earl Alexander, killed at Haledon-hill, both without issue; 3. Earl Thomas married Dornagilla Cumine, daughter to Red John Cumine, widow of Archibald Douglass Lord of Galoway (in her right), by whom he had one daughter Eleonor, who married Sir James Sandelands, to whom her uterine brother William Earl of Douglass gave in portion with her the barony of West Calder; of which marriage, the Barons of West Calder and Lords of Torphichen are descended. In this Thomas ended the male issue of Robert Bruce first Earl of Carrick, whereupon that Earldom was bestowed on John Stewart, Lord of Kyle, eldest son to King Robert Stewart, who thereafter was King, called Robert the III.: and the Earldom of Carrick was annexed to the principality.

X. King David Bruce, in the 39th year of his reign, 1369, gave the barony and castle of Clackmannin, which of old belonged to the crown, to his kinsman. "*Delecto consanguineo*," saith the charter, dated at Perth the 9th of December, a regni 39.

Robert Bruce descended of William Adelmes' brother, whose successor (after the house of Annandale were extinct), did succeed as chief, and so assumed the armes, to wit, a chief and saltier, so carried by the lairds of Clackmannin. The house of Airth giving for difference a star in chief, and Earlshall descended from Airth for a farther difference, adeth a flower de lis, in memory of his advancement by King Charles the VIII. of France (for his great services) to the barony of Concreffault, which he exchanged with the Lord Monneypenney for the lands of Earlshall in Fyffe.

XI. Sir Bernard Bruce, third son to the foresaid Robert fourth Lord of Annandale, by the favour of elder brother, Robert the Noble, who married David Earle of Huntingtoun's daughter, obtained the marriage of the heir of Connington, in Huntingtounshire, and Eaton in Rutlandshire, in England, holding in fee of the Earls of Huntingtoun. To him succeeded

this century, pulled it down, for the purpose of building a mill, and some farm houses.

Character

succeeded his son Barnard II. his son Barnard III. his son Barnard IV. who had no issue. His younger brother John Br. had two daughters, 1. Jean, who got the lands of Exton, of whom descended the Huntingtons of Exton; 2. Agnes Bruce got the lands of Connington, whose successor is Sir Robert Cotton of Connington, the famous antiquary.

We come now to speak of Adam Lord of Skelton, eldest son to Robert first Lord, of Annandale, whose successors carried in their coat of arms, A, a lyon rampant, P. His son, Adam Bruce (second of that name), had for his successor Peter, I, a mighty baron, who married the daughter of Stephen of Campeigne (sister's son to the Conqueror), Earle Albemarle and Holdernefsa. His son Peter II. married Havisa, grandchild and heir to William of Lancaster, Lord of Kendall, in whose right he and his heirs possessed that barony: He died at Merilles in France (as he returned from the Holy Land) 1219. His son Peter III. had no children; and he was last of the male succession of Adam Lord of Skelton. His great inheritance was divided amongst his four sisters; 1. Agnes brought to her husband Sir Walter Faulconbridge the barony of Skelton; 2. Lufie and her husband, Sir Marmaduke Thueng, had the barony of Danby; 3 Margaret Bruce and her husband, Robert Rosa, Lord of Warkcastle, got the Lordship of Kendall. Laderina, with her husband John de Bella Aqua, had the lands of Carleton.

XII. William le Breos, for so he and his posterity is cald, brother to Adelme, for his service in the conquest, got from William of Normandy the castle and barony of Bremwer in Suffex.

XIII. Peter le Breos, his son, second Lord of Bremwer, married Havisa, daughter of William de Momara Earl of Lincoln, in her right; she dyed in the Holly Land, 1128.

XIV. Phillip le Breos, his son, third Lord of Bremwer, a valiant nobleman, was one of the first adventurers in the conquest of Ireland. He married Bertha, second daughter to Millo Fitz-Walter, Earle of Herefoord. She had three brethren, Rodger, Walter, and Henry, one after another Earls of Hereford, who leaving no issue, Bertha augmented her husband Philip with the Lordship of Brecknock, in Brecknockshire, and Abergavenny, in Munmouthshire in England.

XV. William, his son, fourth Lord Bremwer, and also Lord of Brecknock and Abergavenny, married Eva, one of the five daughters, and co-heirs

Character of the People.—The great diversity of ranks and employments in this parish, renders the character of the people equally diversified. In general, however, they are a sober, industrious, and religious people; though instances of great profligacy now and then occur. Many of the lower ranks are much addicted to the drinking of whisky; which is often the cause of much misery to their families. The great body of the farmers are a most intelligent and respectable class of men; many of them pos-

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sessing

heirs (after the death of their five brethren) of William Marshall, the great Earl of Pembroke. She had two sons.

XVI. William; who dying without issue, left his succession to his brother.

XVII. Robert, who married Helen, daughter to Allan de Vitro Pont, &c. This Robert did quit his own arms, and assumed those of Annandale, they being the only male-heirs of the family descended from Adelme. King Robert, his brother Edward, and his sons, all earls of Annandale, being extinct without issue, so that this Robert remained chief, assuming the primitive terms which his successors carry unto this day from him, many bearing the name of Bruce, are descended: whose son,

XVIII. Robert I. Laird of Clackmannan, married — Stuart, daughter to the Laird of Rosenyth, who bare to him three sons; 1. Robert; 2. Edward; 3. Thomas; and a daughter, who married the Laird of Balnagoun: but his son,

XIX. Robert, second Laird of Clackmannan, married — Scrymgeour of Didop, by whom he had 1st. David, 2d. Bruce of Munica.

XX. David, third Laird of Clackmannan, married the daughter to the Lord of Lorn.

XXI. David, fourth Laird of Clackmannan, married 1st. — Stirling, daughter to their Laird of Keir: 2. He married HERRIS, daughter to the Laird Taregles, on both of whom he had issue, as in the tree to be seen.

XXII. Sir David, fifth Laird of Clackmannan, married Jennet Blacketer, daughter to the Laird of Tullialan, &c.

XXIII. John, sixth Laird of Clackmannan, married — Murray, daughter to the Laird of Polmaes.

XXIV.

selling sentiments and manners superior to their rank in life. The higher ranks in this parish have been, from time immemorial, uniformly distinguished by their exemplary conduct, and their regular attendance upon all the ordinances of religion *; and it is but justice to say, that they

still

XXIV. Robert, seventh Laird of Clackmannan, succeeded John, and married — Murray, daughter to the Laird of Tullibarn, by whom he had issue.

XXV. Sir Robert, eighth Lord of Clackmannan, had to his first wife Jennet Wardlaw, daughter to the Laird of Tory. After her death, he married Helena Durie of the house of Durie. What numerous issue he had by them, it is needless here to repeat, since the tree clearly points them out.

XXVI. Robert, ninth Laird of Clackmannan, married Elizabeth Haliburton, daughter to the Laird of Pitcur, and had by her Sir Henry; 1. George Bruce of Comery. He had also three daughters; 1. Catherine, married Robert Watson, brother's son of Casters; 2. Jean married Weemys of Pitney; 3. Helena married Alexander Bruce of Kinneird.

XXVII. Sir Henry, tenth Laird of Clackmannan, had to his first wife Lady Mary Shan, daughter of Sir Alexander Shan of Sauchy, by whom he had Sir David, his successor; 2. Captain John Bruce, who married — Robertson of Bedlay; 3. Henry Bruce. He had also a daughter, Jeanie, who married James Bruce of Pöwfolea. His second lady was the Countess of Dundie.

XXVIII. Sir David Bruce, present Laird of Clackmannan, married Margaret M'Kenzie, eldest daughter to the Viscount of Tarbert, and has by her Elizabeth Bruce, &c. who God long continue.

Amen, Amen.

Prænobilis illustrissimæ & antiquitate hæd ulli secundæ Brufforum familæ genealogiam in hac tabula delineatam, honoratissimo viro D. Davidi Bruffo, Eq. A. & Baron Gentis suæ principi submissæ dicavit.

M. Joh. Szombatinus Hungarus. A. Do. 1686.

* The late Lord Kennet, one of the Members of the Court of Session, and of the High Court of Judiciary, had his residence in this parish. His publick virtues, and his character as a judge, are too well known to need any encomium. His private life was no less amiable and respectable. He was a blessing to all ranks in this corner of the country, in which he lived.

Still continue to deserve this character, which certainly has a happy influence upon the manners of the inferior orders of the people.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Many dreadful accidents have happened in this parish. Several persons have been drowned; several hurt and killed, and burnt to death, at the public works. Two children had their brains dashed out, by coal waggons going over their heads. Two young men belonging to the parish had their lives wonderfully preserved, after falling from heights, almost incredible to be told. One fell 75½ feet from a high tower, and was little hurt; the very same person, sometime after, fell 30 feet from the roof of a house, and was not hurt. Another person fell into an old coal-pit, 70 feet deep, and was got out safe, having only his thigh bone broken. These old open coal-pits, without the least fence around them, are frequent in all the collieries of this parish. They are a publick nuisance, by which the lives of men are often exposed to real danger.

At the colliery of Sauchy, there is at present a woman who has twins; she herself was a twin, and her mother was one of three at a birth. Two sisters in the parish were lately the mothers of three dumb children.

A young cow, some years ago, produced a calf when she was exactly 3 months old.

About 20 years ago, a very large spreading ash tree was struck by lightning, and has since exhibited a singular phenomenon. The lightning had struck one half, only,
of

lived. When he died, the tears of the widow and the fatherless were shed upon his grave: For "the cause which he knew not, he literally searched out."

Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit.

of its branches, and, penetrating all the way down one side of the trunk, tore up and laid open the roots of the same side. Since that time, one half of the tree has decayed, while the other remained healthy. The bark was entire all round the trunk; but the healthy branches continued yearly to decrease a little. No farther observations, however, can now be made upon it: for though it appeared to be a great natural curiosity, yet the proprietor, it seems, has not considered it in this point of view, and, not thinking of the philosophical purposes to which it might have been subservient, has lately cut it down.

This parish still opens a wide field for improvements of various kinds. There was formerly a ferry boat on the river Forth, opposite the village of Clackmannan. This would still be of great use and convenience to the country, both to the north and south. The harbour at Clackmannan Pow, by a small expense, may be rendered a safe and convenient landing place. And a village also might be built at that place, so as to have many advantages of situation.

The whole county of Clackmannan, and this parish in particular, has long laboured under the greatest inconvenience, from the uncommonly bad state of the public roads. Fortunately, however, the gentlemen of the county have at last got their eyes opened to their true interest. A turnpike road bill for this county is just now depending in Parliament, and with every prospect of success.

APPENDIX

A P P E N D I X.

THE FAIR ISLE.

(COUNTY OF ORKNEY.)

IT is remarkable, that there should be lying, at no greater distance from us than half way between Orkney and Shetland, an Isle, whose inhabitants seem to be, as yet, almost in a state of nature. The account of a south-sea island, could hardly attract more our curiosity. What seems to explain the singularity of the case, is, the small size of the Fair Isle, and its lying remote from any neighbouring ones; from which circumstances, it has neither been in a condition to defend itself, on account of the scanty number of its inhabitants, nor to obtain aid from those of other places. That it was in former times peculiarly exposed to invaders and ravagers, appears from history. “The natives (says Buchanan, who wrote in the century before last), are by far the poorest of all others; for the fishermen from England, Holland, and other maritime regions, who every year frequent those seas, seize upon and carry away every thing, as they please.” Hence, although

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although such depredations have ceased, those islanders are but hardly at this day emerging from the effects of a precarious and distressful a condition; and beginning to form something like a settled and a comfortable society.

The Fair Isle belongs to the parish of Dunrossness in Shetland; and the following account of it is taken from a paper drawn up by the Rev. MR. BARRY, minister of Shapinshay, in Orkney.

THE name of this isle, perhaps may be derived from its being distinctly marked in the ocean, and seen by mariners at a great distance; seldom covered with fog; and, on a nearer approach, exhibiting its lofty heads, clothed with considerable verdure. Buchanan describes it with a good deal of accuracy. "*Fara*, or, *The Fair Isle*, is a conspicuous object (says he), both to the Orkneys and to Shetland. It rises into three very high promontories, encompassed with lofty rocks; and is every where inaccessible, unless upon the S. E., where, lowering itself a little, it affords a safe station for small vessels." It is 30 miles distant from the most northerly of the Orkney islands, and 24 from the S. part of Shetland; extending in length from N. E. to S. W. upwards of 3 miles, and nearly 2 in breadth.

The promontories are Malcolm's Head on the W., the Wart or Wardhill on the N. E., and the Sheep Craig at the S. E. extremity. This last is a stupendous and magnificent object; a huge mass of rock rising in a conical form as it were from the ocean, to the height of 480 feet, and almost entirely separated from the island, either by the force of the surrounding element or some convulsion
of

of nature. The soil on its surface, which consists of about 12 acres, produces a kind of grass that maintains annually 24 sheep, which are as remarkable for the excellence of their wool, as for the value of their carcasses. In several parts of this solitary isle, where the rock has been soft, or a stratum of clay has presented its surface, the sea has dug many deep gulfs or gullies to a considerable distance. Of this kind is the one on the S. E. side of the island, called Stromceiler; in which, tradition asserts, one of the ships of the Spanish Armada, in the year 1588, suffered shipwreck. The inhabitants believe she is now converted into a rock, and covered with sea weed. Captain Roe, from England, in 1740, when fishing the wreck, was fortunate enough to raise two brass guns, of a large size, and some other articles of less value; but having lost a man in the attempt, he desisted. About the year 1770, a ship bolt, long and thick, with stones adhering, was thrown ashore in a neighbouring gulf, and is now in the possession of James Stewart, Esq. the proprietor. To the eye of a spectator who delights to contemplate the wild irregularities of Nature, there is every where much entertainment. In one place, the rocks raise their bold brows, and stretch out as it were to bid defiance to the fury of the ocean; in another, they seem to shrink back, and are cut into immense caves and deep gulfs, that threaten to undermine and tear in pieces the whole island. Its extremities are all of them high; the middle part is lower, and more level; and the whole surface of it, which amounts to about 1800 acres, except in a very few spots, is covered with knolls or hillocks. There is, on the N. E. corner, a harbour for small craft, where they lie in safety when the wind blows from any quarter but N. E.; and for the greater security, they are fixed

with ropes to the rocks, by means of rings and staples inserted for that purpose. The rocks on the S. W. side are called the Keels; and ashore on this place lie all the boats of the island.

To the N. are situated the houses, which are confusedly thrown together as chance, whim, or conveniency directed, into four clumps or towns, under the fine founding names of Shewah, Lioh, Bustah, and Gelah. These 4 little towns, as they are called, contain the inhabitants, of which there are 32 families, about 7 persons in each; 106 males, and 114 females; in all, 220. Of these, there are two, 100 years of age and upwards.

6	between 80 and 90,	33	between 30 and 40,
8	70 80,	30	20 30,
12	60 70,	34	10 20,
16	50 60,	39	1 10.
40	40 50,		

The people in this island are increasing considerably in number; for in the last 8 years, there have been 11 marriages, 64 births, and only 27 funerals. Since it came into the hands of the present proprietor, who purchased it at a judicial sale from the Sinclairs of Quandel, the population has increased one-fourth; and though it has not been in his possession much above 20 years, it has brought him nearly triple his purchase-money. The causes of this prosperity are various. Their pasture ground is very good; on which they have 400 sheep, whose wool and mutton are equally excellent, and also nearly 200 black cattle, besides some goats, which have been lately imported, and horses, which, for domestick purposes, they bring from Shetland. All these they take particular care of, and turn their produce to the best account, in their situation.

Situation. Their arable land is about 75 acres; and as it is divided among them in small and nearly equal parcels, every man attentively labours his little spot with the spade, there not being a plough in the whole island. As the shores are high, and the water deep, they have little or no access to sea weed, which in the Orkneys is so much used as a manure, and therefore they are obliged to have recourse to dung or compost, by means of which their lands produce alternately excellent oats and barley. These are the only grains they raise; and when they have cultivated their land for two years, and had a crop of each kind, they lay it down to rest for one year, when they begin the same course as formerly. They manufacture a little kelp in the summer season.

Their boats, which are 14 in number, lie on the S. W. shore, under the little town of Gelah, from which they go with only 2 or 3 men in them, who sit in the middle of the boat; and, with an oar in each hand, row over immense billows, in a short time, to a great distance. In these pitiful skiffs, in which a landman would scarcely trust his life across a river, they fly to the fishing ground, almost out of sight of the island, where they catch plenty of fine cod, ling, tusk, skate, holibut, mackerel, cyth, and other fish of inferior quality. These, together with their hens, chickens, sheep, eggs, &c. they afterwards carry to ships, which they observe in the offing, though at the distance of 15 or 20 miles, and barter them to great advantage, for various articles of food and clothing. They spin also excellent linen yarn, and discover much dexterity in manufacturing their fine soft wool into stockings, gloves, nightcaps, and other wearing apparel. If they do not dispose of their whole fish, mutton, hens, stockings, &c. in barter with the ships, which is seldom the case,

6 N 2 they

they reserve the remainder for the payment of their rents, which in whole amount to about 80*l.* Sterling annually. The proprietor, abundantly sensible that their money is scarce, and indeed almost unnecessary, receives his rents in the articles they can best spare; he furnishes them with those they stand most in need of, and, in return, takes what they either raise from the ground, or procure by purchase or manufacture. The island is reckoned one of the Shetland isles; and the cultivated ground in it, like that of Shetland, is divided into mark lands, according to which, it pays cess, as there has been no valuation in that country. It makes part of the county of Orkney, pays a feu-duty of 200 merks to Lord Dundas, and 34*l.* Scotch, compounded vicarage teind, to the minister of Dunrossness, as belonging to his parish. From its fertility in raising excellent grain, its affording pasture for plenty of sheep and black cattle, from the myriads of fish, of the largest size and of the finest quality, that perpetually swim around its coasts, some are of opinion, it would be an excellent fishing station.

The people are all of them sober, prudent, and industrious: The men are remarkable for strength and vigour, the women for sweetness and modesty; and as they live principally on bread and fish, which, it is admitted, are very favourable to population, they have families as healthy as they are numerous. To rear up these to be a comfort to their parents, and a benefit to the publick, the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge have established one of their schools in the island. A Sunday school, with a suitable salary, and a considerable number of books given, has been erected this year, by a very humane and benevolent society at Edinburgh. If, to these excellent institutions, the labours of a missionary were added, at the
expense

expense of the Committee for Managing the Royal Bounty, as formerly, these people would reap not only the benefits of education, but the enjoyments of virtue and the comforts of religion. Already almost all of them can read; many of them can write; they are contented with their lot; they have sobriety, good management, and industry: and were religion to lend her propitious aid, she would animate and strengthen all these virtues, sweeten their toil, lessen their care, and support them in every danger and distress.

END OF THE FOURTEENTH VOLUME.



